MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
134 MATHEWSON STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903
TELEPHONE 401-331-8900

July 2, 1973

Rev. Arthur R. Cazeault
Metropolitan Community Church
290 Westminister Street
Suite 613
Providence, R. I. 02903

Dear Mr. Cazeault:

We are pleased that we can make our Chapel and Fellowship Hall available to your church on Sunday evenings 7 to 9 p.m., July 8th to September 2nd.

One of our sextons, Mr. John Zanghi will be present from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. to open and close the building and provide whatever services you may require.

We would ask that the Metropolitan Community Church reimburse Mathewson Street Church for the cost of his service at $2.50 an hour or $7.50 for each Sunday. If this could be done on a weekly basis it would be most helpful. There are no other reimbursements necessary.

We hope you will have the most productive Summer worship series.

Sincerely.

Wilbur C. Ziegler db

Wilbur C. Ziegler, Senior Minister

WCZ/db

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MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
134 MATHEWSON STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903
TELEPHONE 401-331-8900

MINISTERS
RENE O. BIDEAUX
HOWARD E. TOWER
GIRARD F. LONG

May 22, 1973

The Reverend Arthur R. Cazeault
Metropolitan Community Church
of Providence, Rhode Island
290 Westminster Street
Suite 613,
Providence, R. I. 02903

Dear Reverend Cazeault,

It was good to meet you and learn more about the Metropolitan Community Church.

As we are in the midst of a complete staff change, I am suggesting that this matter be allowed to pass to my successor. Your assurance that one way or another, the Metropolitan Community Church will not be without a place for worship is encouraging.

I'm sure Mr. Ziegler will be happy to meet with you once he has settled in Providence.

Sincerely yours,

Rene O. Bideaux

Rene O. Bideaux, Pastor

ROB/mi
cc: The Reverend Mr. Wilbur C. Ziegler

KATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
151 KATHEWSON STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02906
TELEPHONE 401-331-8400

MATHEWSON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
134 MATHEWSON STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903
TELEPHONE 401-331-8900

July 19, 1973

Mr. Grenier
M. C. C. Of Providence
290 Westminister St. Suite 613
Providence, R. I.

Dear Mr. Grenier:

We received your letter and check for $10.00 yesterday. In Mr. Ziegler's correspondence with you he indicated that there would be no charge for use of the Chapel and Fellowship Hall, but the sexton on duty John Zanghi was to receive $7.50 per night for his services. It would be most appreciated if the church would reimburse Mr. Zanghi directly and not through the Mathewon Street Church office. We are returning your check to you. If you have any questions call us.

Peace,

Gary Cornell

Gary Cornell

GSC/db

City of East Providence
RHODE ISLAND
1862

Department of
Public Works

November 27, 1973

Pentecostal Apostolic Church of Greater Providence
200 Waterman Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Rev. Arthur E. Pendleton

Dear Sir:

Would you please make arrangements with this office for the use and inspection of all wells on church property at 400 Pawtucket Avenue, East Side.

Very truly yours,

Edward T. Wilson,
Chief Building Inspector.

ETW:ms

City of East Providence
RHODE ISLAND
434-3311

Department of
PUBLIC WORKS

November 23, 1973.

Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Providence
290 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Rev. Arthur R. Cazeault:-

Dear Sir:-

Would you please make arrangements with this office for for our inspectors to get into the Church property at 410 Waterman Avenue, this City.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth S. Wilder

Kenneth S. Wilder,
Chief Building Inspector.

KSW:hb

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of
PUBLIC WORKS

November 23, 1973

Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Providence
290 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Rev. Arthur R. Cassavitz-

Dear Sir:-

Would you please make arrangements with this office for
for our Inspectors to get into the Church property at 410
Veterans Avenue, this City.

Very truly yours,

Chief Building Inspector.

KSW:rb

McKinnon & Fortunato
Attorneys at Law

Daniel H. McKinnon
Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr.

John A. Varone
of Counsel

1158 Newport Avenue
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861
(401) 723-9655

November 20, 1973

Reverend Arthur Cazeault
Metropolitan Community Church
410 Waterman Avenue
E. Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Art:

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to address your community on homosexuality and the law and to participate in a series that I am sure will be beneficial.

As per your request, I am enclosing a number of cards for further reference for those people who feel a need to consult with me.

I hope that any "fall-out" from the newspaper article has been favorable. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr.

SJF:sjg
Enclosures

The First Baptist Church

WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND
02895

BRENTON JK ARTHUR, PASTOR
175 SPRING STREET
762-0036

ROBERT L. MANDEVILLE, CLERK
40 FLORIDA STREET
762-0822

November 26, 1973

Rev. Arthur R. Cazeault
Metropolitan Community Church
410 Waterman Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914

Dear Mr. Cazeault:

At a recent meeting of the Council of American Baptist Ministers in Rhode Island, the question arose concerning the recognition of "Gay Churches" by the American Baptist Churches in USA, resulting in quite an animated but unintelligent discussion.

On the basis of this, our program committee thought it would be well worth while to have a general discussion on the Homosexual Church with some of their own leadership involved.

The only open date in our schedule is Tuesday, January 15th at the Oaklawn Baptist Church, 229 Wilbur Avenue, Cranston, at 10:00 am. Could you, or some one (or ones) provided by you present your position and lead in a discussion? You should understand, that due to our limited finances, we cannot offer an honorarium.

If you come, I can guarantee an audience with a wide range of acceptance, from sympathetic to hostile with all shades in between. I am almost sure that some of the questions you would be asked are

Do you accept homophiles into your membership
- a) To eventually win them away from this life style?
- b) Regardless of their continuance in this life style?
- c) To support them in this life style?
- d) To encourage them (more positive than c) in this life style?

Does your church
- a) Seek to eventually overcome Homosexuality as a life style?
- b) Tolerate homosexuality (It's there, so accept it.)
- c) Support homosexuality (If you want it, that's fine.)
- d) Promote homosexuality (Why don't you hetero's try it?)

Could you let me know wheter this invitation can be accepted or not before December 18th? I could then announce it at our next meeting on that date. My address is above.

Thank you

Brenton JK Arthur

Brenton JK Arthur
Program Chairman

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF GREATER PROVIDENCE
5 Junction Street
Parsonage
Providence, RI. 02907

Dear Marge and Jean,

Welcome to our house.

Sorry we are so messy. It is in fact NOT because of the male stereotypes...but just because we haven't caught up from the holidays yet.

In any event we welcome you. Be at home.

There will be people here Saturday evening for Vespers and I know they would find it meaningful if you joined them in that prayer effort.

I only wish that there were some way for me to be with Dee and those saints and be here with you two and the saints of Providence.

Here is a key to the front door...the bottom lock. We do not ordinarily use the top lock unless the house is going to be vacant for the weekend or something.

Peter may or may not be home. His room is off the kitchen He is by way of being foster child to Heather Anderson and me. Heather claims to be his father.....so!?!?!? If he is home I think you will like him. The front bedroom off the hall is for the two of you. The electric blanket works. Sorry the bed is not better. Two of the women in Worcester gave us most of a water bed for Christmas and it is not yet completely set up.

Steve La Fever (the operator has his phone number) is my Assistant and if you have any problems please call him. If Michael Nordstrom gets pushy...push back, but loveingly. He is a bit fragile at the moment and that is his way of protecting himself.

Say what you need to say Sunday. The congregation understands that you come with authority...God's and

The least of the servants,

Joseph

Who loves you

Rev. Jos. H. Gilbert

Please leave the key on the dining room table when you leave the last time. The treasurer will have a transportation check for you at service

Love

DRAFT

NEW ENGLAND GAY CONFERENCE $4.00
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2 & 3
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
600 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE
PROVIDENCE, RI. HOUSING AVAILABLE

- -

HOSTED BY RIC GAY ALLIANCE

- -

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1977

REGISTRATION: R.I.C. STUDENT UNION, 5:00 PM on
OPENING ADDRESS: R.I.C. GAGE HALL, 7:30 PM
Fr. Malcolm Boyd, "Coming Out"
SOCIAL: R.I.C. STUDENT UNION BALL ROOM, 10:00 PM
(group to be announced)

- -

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1977

REGISTRATION: R.I.C. STUDENT UNION, 8:00 AM on
KEYNOTE ADDRESS: R.I.C. GAGE HALL, 9:00 AM
Mr. Merle Miller, "Gay People In Society"

WORKSHOPS: 10:00 to 11:30 AM
"Coming Out To Self"
Jay Deacon, facilitator
"Stability and Movement of Roles Among Gay Men"

"Stability and Movement of Roles Among Lesbians"
Marge Ragona
"Rural Gay Life Styles"

"Gay People In A Repressive Society"
Eric Gordon, facilitator

LUNCH: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

WORKSHOPS: 12:30 to 2:00 PM
"Coming Out to Friends and Family"
Ed Haugen, facilitator
"Changing Patterns of Monogamy"
Margaret Haugen, facilitator
"The Effect of the Homosexual On Society"

"Feminism"

"Producing A Small Publication"
Lyn Rosen, facilitator

COFFEE BREAK: 2:00 to 2:30 PM

Marge: How about it?

WORKSHOPS: 2:30 to 4:00 PM
"Coming Out to The World"
Hubert Kennedy, facilitator
"Acceptance of Sexual Minorities"
Valerie
"The Ageing Process In The Gay Community"

"Parents of Gays/Gay Parents"

"Communal Living"
Raymond LaRiviera/Gregg Howe, facilitators

MEETING: RIC GAGE HALL, 4:00 to 5:00 PM
The New England Clearinghouse for Sexual Minorities

SUPPER: 5:00 to 6:00 PM

AD HOC CAUCUSES: 6:00 to 7:30 PM
Transvestites, S & M, Women's Movement, Religious Gays, Socialist Gays, Rural Gays, Black Gays, Latin Gays, Academic Gays, Alcoholic Gays, Athletic Gays, Older Gays
(if you will inform the registration desk of other needed Caucuses space will be assigned and announced.

COFFEE BREAK: 7:30 to 8:00 PM

GAY IMAGES: 8:00 to 10:00 PM
"Sights and Sounds" a multi-media presentation

FREE TIME: 10:00 PM on

- -

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1977

MAJOR ADDRESS: RIC, GAGE HALL, 10:00 AM
Mr. Eric Gordon, "The Pink Triangle"

RECAP OF CAUCUSES: 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON
(note: Caucuses should have proposals typed up and run off for distribution before 10:00 AM)

LUNCH: 12:00 NOON to 1:00 PM

RECAP OF WORKSHOPS: 1:00 to 6:00 PM
(note: Workshops should have proposals typed up and run off for distribution as early Sunday as possible, but no later than Noon)

ECUMENICAL SERVICE: 134 Mathewson Street, Providence
7:00 PM
Dignity, Integrity, M.C.C., Lutherans Concerned, Unitarian Gay Caucus, Quaker Gay Caucus, Seventh Day Adventist Gay Caucus, Synagogue, &c.

- -

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE ALL WEEKEND.

WHAT IS METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH ?

Metropolitan Community Church came into being because of a need -- the need to bring the "Good News" of the Christian gospel to the most oppressed minority in the United States, the Gay Community.

Because of homophobic attitudes, the established church -- particularly Fundamentalist churches -- has been unwilling to respond to the spiritual and social needs of gay persons. As a result, a serious gulf of separation exists between the Gay Community and a constructive knowlege of the Gospel's liberating power -- a gulf created by the un-Christian behavior of many churches.

MCC demonstrates to the gay community that churches do not always reflect the best of the Christian faith. MCC stresses that God does not condemn a person because he or she is gay; God is only concerned that the person use his or her sexual orientation as a means to express love and concern for another human being of like mind. In utilizing one's sexuality in such a manner, a person honors and pleases God. So, a person can be Christian and gay. They are compatible.

MCC feels that the wider Christian Community must be made aware of the fact that it is sinning against God when it persecutes anyone -- including Gay people, and declares that they have no right to call on God's love and liberating power without first renouncing their God-given homosexual orientation. As a result, MCC is engaged in an active program of dialogue with churches and individual Christians.

MCC works for the day when the kingdom of God will be fully realized, when persons will not be judged by their race, sex, or sexual orientation, when Christ's church will truly accept all people, and oppressed persons will not have to separate themselves from their oppressors in order to worship God freely, openly and without fear.

MCC believes: "We are saved from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of Grace, being justified by faith in Christ."

WHY ARE WE FASTING?

Groups of Fundamentalist Christians in Florida, St. Paul, Minnesota, Wichita, Kansas, Eugene, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, have begun initiatives and promoted referendums to rescind gay rights ordinances which have been passed in those cities. Our Christian brothers and sisters have begun a program of oppression against gays which could deny gays the rights to work, have decent housing, keep their children, and have equal access to the courts.

Many cities have refused to pass human rights ordinances to protect gays equally with all other minority groups. Providence is such a city. We are moving into a time of oppression against a group of people which has been singled out for repressive legislation based on prejudice, bigotry, and lack of knowledge. The gay community is less dangerous to the community at large than are many heterosexuals. The time is reminiscent of Hitler's "Big Lie." If you tell it often enough people will believe it. We are fasting, therefore, in protest.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

In Providence: Write to the City Council and tell them that you do not agree that "sexual orientation" should be left out of the Comprehensive Human Rights Ordinance. The City Council had to import people to speak against the Ordinance, and there is a suit pending against the Council. You can help by contributing to the group bringing suit. Write Gay Community Services, 55 Eddy Street, Providence for further information, or send a contribution.

At the State Level: Demand inclusion of "Sexual Orientation" in the state Human Rights Legislation. Write your state legislator and tell him that you are for the rights of all people.

At the National Level: Write your senator or congressional representative, letting them know that you would like them to vote for inclusion of "Sexual Orientation" in national human and civil rights legislation.

If you are gay: Join Gay Community Services, the Gay Political Caucus, Metropolitan Community Church, or the Lesbian Feminists Union. We all need your help and your support if we are going to turn people's ideas around.

Gay Pride Week is coming up! There will be parades in Providence, Boston, and New York. COME OUT! When the world finally knows how many of us there are there will be less opportunity for them to deny knowing us and less need for them to object to us. We are your neighbor, your friend, your daughter or son, possibly even your wife or husband, we may be your father or mother.

If you are not gay: Remember that gay people learn how to feel about themselves the same way we all do -- by the way others feel about us. We are God's created children just as you are. It is only through understanding and knowledge that people will realize that"nothing that is human is foreign to me." Understand your prejudices, and learn to accept people who are different from you. Difference does not imply danger.

We will be fasting here on the steps of the Federal Building for seven days. MCC ministers will be fasting in other cities for the same period of time, May 9th through 16th. Pray for our safety, and support us through this time of trial.

Fasting is an old scriptural custom to decry injustice. Help people realize that injustice can wear many costumes -- and that of the Fundamentalist religious groups is just as much injustice as any other, so long as it pits one group of people against another.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF PROVIDENCE
P.O. Box 1462
Annex Station
Providence, Rhode Island 02901

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF PROVIDENCE
P.O. Box 1462
Annex Station
Providence, Rhode Island 02901

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Marge Ragona
Staff Minister: Rev. Michael Nordstrom
(Innovative Ministry)

Exhorters:
Carl Cornish
Belle Pellegrino
Phil Eberle
Connie DeCenzo

Deacons:
Barbara Kendall, Head Deacon
Edie Maillet
Cindy Dumont

Board of Directors:
Stephanie Judd, Vice Moderator/Clerk
Bill Counts, Treasurer
Ernie Bourgeois
Bill Mencer
Mary Comerford

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R.I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401) 272-9247

July 8, 1979

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: But this I call to mind,
P: And Therefore I have hope:
L: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
P: God's mercies never come to an end;
L: They are new every morning;
P: Great is thy faithfulness.
L: "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
P: "Therefore I will hope in the Lord."
L: The Lord is good to those who wait,
P: To the soul that seeks our God.
L: It is good that one should wait quietly
P: For the salvation of the Lord.

OPENING HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness G-67

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19: 7-14
Acts 2: 41-47
I Cor: 3: 9-17

SERMON: Three Very Different Little Pigs and EST

HYMN: Special Music

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O Lord

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology

COMMUNION HYMN: Break Thou the Bread of Life P-16

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Loving God, look at us in our separation from each other, from You and from ourselves. Speak to our arrogance and need for power, which estranges us from people who need us. Keep us from taking secret joy in the misfortunes of others; in mistrusting the motives of others, and from being unworthy of trust. Teach us to love and accept love, allow us to be vulnerable, to fail and rise again. Permit us to seek your forgiveness and to accept your pardon, You who love us and heal us and give us back our lives renewed. In Jesus' name, who taught us to pray saying, "Our Creator".....

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sung Thanksgiving:

Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life God will enable
Now we leave, and believe
That God will restore us
For the work before us.

CLOSING HYMN: There's A Church Within Us P-54

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

* *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tues, 7/10- Rap Session, 7:30 pm at the Parsonage
Topic: Making Relationships Work

Weds, 7/11- Transvestite Rap, 8:00pm at the Parsonage

Sat, 7/14- Board Meeting, 12:00n at the Parsonage

Sidewalk Sale, 12:00 - 5:00 pm.

Raffle tickets are available for a 50/50 Raffle, the drawing will be held on Sunday, July 29, 1979. See Mary Comerford for ticket books.

the "Casino Night" has been postponed until the end of August. See Belle Pellegrino if you can help for this fund-raising event.

Next Sunday, July 15, there will be a Lay Concerns meeting immediately following Service. This is a very important meeting with a questionnaire and a discussion of the By-Law Change Proposals for General Conference, regarding which we need to instruct our Delegate.

NOTE: Anyone going to General Conference who has not made reservations needs to do so immediately. Pre-Registration is necessary for the Conference.

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Acts 2: 41-47 Carl
I Cor: 3: 9-17 Edie

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HYMN: Special Music

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Bill W
Response: Hear Our Prayers, O Lord

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
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Now we leave, and believe
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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF GREATER PROVIDENCE

1075

March 19 19 79 57-127/115

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Professional Church Leadership | $ 63.00

Sixty-Three and no/100 DOLLARS

FIRST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY PROVIDENCE, R.I. MAR 20 '79 57-127 PROCESSED

First Bank and Trust Company
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02901

Mary I Compford
Marjorie F. Ragona

FOR COWIM Conference - Mariottsville, Md.
REV. MARJORIE RAGONA

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STON
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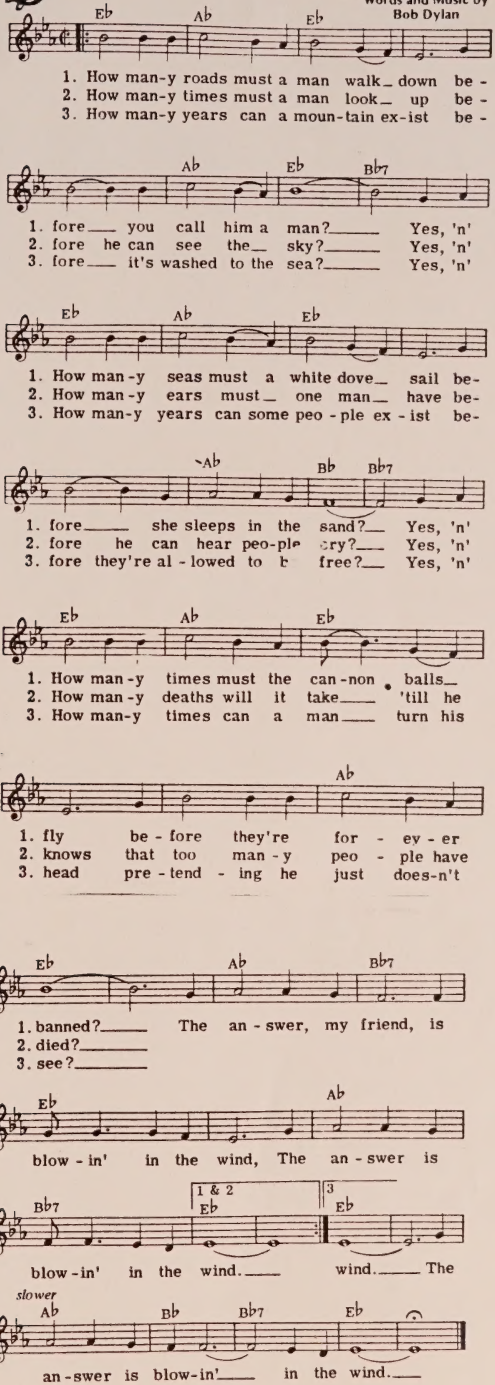
Blowin' In the Wind

Words and Music by
Bob Dylan



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The Answer is living in us now.

Music For THE ANSWER IS LIVING INUS NOW.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF PROVIDENCE
POST OFFICE BOX 1462 PROVIDENCE, RI 02901

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
5 Junction Street, Providence
(401) 272—9247

Sunday Services - 7:00 PM
134 Mathewson St.

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Troy Perry
Moderator
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard #304
Los Angeles, California 90029

Dear Troy:

I recognize that this probably is in Freda Smith's territory, and am sending her a copy of this letter, but also wanted to let you know about it.

I have been receiving letters (and a monthly tithe) from a member of our church, Richard Matera, who is in the Army in Germany. Richard is a very serious-minded Christian who seeks to become a deacon in our church when he returns from the service.

He has been involved with a group of gays, in providing a contact point and information center, for service people in Germany. They have provided themselves with a post office box and a private club where gays meet to socialize at least once a month.

He has heard that there is an MCC group meeting in Frankfurt and/or Karlsruhe. Do you have knowledge of any such groups? He has also told us that if none exist, he would be interested in being the person around which such a group could form. Is the fellowship interested in writing him about that. His address is: Richard Matera, Co A 8 Aviation Bn., APO New York 09111. The group in Karlsruhe can be reached at "English-Speaking Gays", Attn: Richard, Postfach 6526, 7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany.

Thanks for your help. See you on or about ~~May~~ Aug. 3, when I'll be in California.

In Christ's love,

Marge R.

Marge Ragona, Pastor
MCC Providence

mfr

Certificate of Church Membership

This Certifies

That Marjorie Ragona

has publicly confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and has been received into the full membership of the Metropolitan Community Church of Providence

On this Eighteenth day of December in the year of our Lord 1977

Rev. Marjorie F. Ragona Pastor

The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved. Acts. 2:47

Certificate of Church Membership

This Certifies

That Elizabeth Ragona

has publicly confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and has been received into the full membership of the Metropolitan Community Church of Providence

On this Eighteenth day of December in the year of our Lord 1977

Rev Marjorie F. Ragona Pastor

The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved. Acts. 2:47

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Minutes

Second Quarterly Conference

Boston, Massachusetts

February 3 and 4, 1973

The second quarterly meeting of the Northeast District was hosted by the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston. The proposed agenda for the meeting is attached.

The meeting was convened with a prayer by Rev. Bernier at 9:55 am. Present as Pastors and voting delegates were Rev. Laurence Bernier, Pastor, and Mr. Al Bouchard, voting delegate, Boston; Rev. Roy Birchard, Pastor, and Mr. Leo Stoeckl, voting delegate, New York; Rev. Keith Davis, Pastor, and Rev. Bill Spangler, voting delegate, Philadelphia; and Rev. Paul Breton, Pastor, and Rev. Mr. John Barbone, voting delegate, Washington, D. C. The Baltimore Mission was not represented. Also present were Ms. Penny Perrault, District Secretary-Treasurer; Rev. Howard Wells, Chairperson, District By-Laws Committee; Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Director of Prison Ministries for the Fellowship; Mr. Michael Nordstrom, Coordinator, Special Ministry to the Handicapped for the Fellowship; and several guests.

The minutes of the first quarterly conference were read and accepted without amendment.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

The District Coordinator, Rev. Breton, reported on his visits to each of the churches and missions in the District:

Baltimore: The Baltimore Mission has been using the facilities of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The attendance has been in the mid-20's, and growing. They are also in the process of forming a Metropolitan Community Temple, since Baltimore has a very large Jewish population.

Boston: The Boston congregation is one of the fastest growing ones in the country. They have been able to obtain interns from local seminaries to assist with a variety of pastoral duties.

New York: The New York congregation is very strong, although growth has been slow. This congregation faces a unique problem with the character of the urban area which they serve, but they are dealing with it well.

Philadelphia: This is the largest Church in the District, with attendance consistently over the 75 mark. They have grown stably and have a good future.

Washington, D. C.: This congregation is growing, although they face similar problems to those of New York. The church, however, is strong, with attendance over 45.

The District Coordinator reported that there are possibilities for several study groups in the District: Worcester, Massachusetts; Long Island, New York; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Manchester, New Hampshire.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SECRETARY/TREASURER

Secretarial Report: There is very little to report from the first quarter. Several requests were made, however. The Secretary/Treasurer, Penny Perrault, requested that (1) she be notified every six weeks or two months of membership numbers, so that a record can be kept for both secretarial and treasurer's purposes; (2) that a copy of any correspondence concerning District matters be sent directly to the Secretary; and (3) please notify the Secretary/Treasurer of the amount in each congregation's mission fund. This will enable the District to gauge how much is available for evangelistic work.

Treasurer's Report: At present there is $20.00 available in the District treasury. Only one church in the District has thus far given their share. It was requested that the churches in the District get their funds in as quickly as possible since the District has expenses which must be met.

REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES AND MISSIONS

Baltimore: There was no report, since Baltimore sent no representatives to this District Conference.

Boston: Boston started as an independent church, and joined the Fellowship as a mission on September 10, 1972. The attendance has grown rapidly, and they are currently averaging 70 people in attendance, and have 35 members. They are gaining new members each month, and expect an average attendance of 100 by Easter. They have an Associate Pastor who is a woman, Nancy Wilson, and this has been a very effective arrangement. There are three seminarians doing internship with the Boston Church who are also assisting with pastoral duties. Collections have been excellent, and there is $135 in weekly pledges. The goals of the Boston Church are reconciliation of the straight and gay communities, investigation of alternative living styles for gays and straights, and the investigation of different liturgies. They are developing a Youth Home, a crisis intervention center, and are working to eradicate sexism in the church.

New York: New York has a new Pastor, Rev. Roy Birchard, who is also the editor of the Gay Christian. They are planning to license Jim Beers as their first exhorter in the near future. A gift has been made to the church of advertising space in the After Dark magazine. They are expanding the Gay Christian.

Philadelphia: The Philadephia Church is healthy and growing. They have an average attendance of 75 to 80, a publication entitled the "New Life Outreach," and a very active social program. Their membership is close to 60, and have been receiving many invitations to speak on MCC before various groups. Over a rather short period of time they have raised enough money for an MCC Church Center, and the Church has the good will of the community. They have had some internal difficulties, and Rev. Davis has submitted his resignation, effective March 4, 1973.

Washington, D. C.: The Washington Church has had several setbacks, primarily with finding worship facilities. They are now using the chapel of First Congregational United Church of Christ, and are hoping they will be able to obtain the facilities of the Concordia United Church of Christ. They are taking under consideration the establishment of a professional counseling program for gays in cooperation with another organization.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FINANCES

There was considerable discussion of the finances for the Northeast District, and a suggestion was made for a budget of between $150-$200 per quarter. It was also suggested that we continue for the next quarter with the rule of thumb established by the last conference ($1.00 per registered member per quarter). It was moved that, rather than establish a budget before expenses were known, we continue with the financial arrangements made at the last Conference, and that priority be given to the establishment of a budget at the next Conference. The motion was seconded and passed. It was requested that churches which are late in sending their funds for the first quarter try to get them in as soon as possible, so that they do not get too far behind and so that District obligations can be met. It was moved that the Pastors be responsible for the distribution of the District minutes to the staffs of each church as part of the Pastor's responsibility to the District. The motion was seconded and passed.

DISTRICT BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Since Rev. Wells had not received any proposed changes until this weekend, this discussion was deferred until later in the meeting.

RADIO BROADCASTS

The report from Rev. Huff on radio broadcasts was deferred until the next meeting, since Rev. Huff was not present.

EVANGELISM

Nancy Wilson brought up the question of evangelism to women. All of the churches have experienced difficulty in bringing women into the Church, and there is a critical need to reach out to women. Rev. Bernier had some success resulting from a plea for women to work in the church made over radio. The Boston Church has also started a women's group out of necessity, and they are planning services which eliminate sexism. Rev. Bernier commented that it is important to make a real and sincere effort to open the ministry to women. In Philadelphia the Pastor, together with others, has been visiting women's bars and talking to women, and has been very successful with this approach. Philadelphia has also found it helpful to have one person to greet the women coming into the church. It was suggested that we have a District coordinator for ministry to women. It was moved and seconded that Nancy Wilson be named coordinator of an education program to be directed toward MCC churches to bring women into the full community life of those churches. The motion passed. It was then suggested that a committee be established to assist Nancy Wilson made up of one woman from each church to work with the coordinator on this ministry, and that each church appoint a woman to serve on this committee by March 1 with at least one meeting prior to the next Conference. This was moved, seconded and passed.

Rev. Davis went on record as being available for evangelistic projects or evangelism in the Northeast District, and gave his address for this purpose: 210 5th Avenue, Suite 1102, New York, New York 10010.

Rev. Breton spoke of the need for availability of a licensed or ordained minister to service in churches for temporary work while a Pastor is ill or away, or when a church is temporarily without a pastor, and he also spoke to the need for ministers to be available within the District. Rev. Wells commented that this was the domain of the District Coordinator. A discussion of resources for new ministers to work with MCC and the necessity for care in checking credentials followed.

There was a discussion with regard to staffing for summer missions. Recommendation was made that the individual churches check with local seminaries to see about the availability of seminarians to intern in summer missions. It was moved that the District Coordinator write and/or call the Samaritan Seminary and check on the availability of seminarians. The motion was seconded and passed.

PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNICANTS, INQUIRERS, EXHORTERS AND DEACONS

Rev. Breton reported that he had contacted the Fellowship Offices for copies of their communicants' classes, but was told that they had not finished printing up the material on the program from the last General Conference. Rev. Birchard commented that the Los Angeles Church has a program which is quite thorough, and that the District should make available one Xerox copy of this plan to each church for the communicants' classes. This was moved, seconded and passed.

A proposal for Exhorter/Deacon classes, drawn up by John Barbone, was distributed to all delegates present, and briefly discussed. It was moved that a standing committee on Christian Education be established that would be responsible for developing Christian Education programs for members, Exhorters and Deacons, including cooperation with Samaritan Bible Seminary. The motion was seconded and passed. It was moved to nominate John Barbone to chair the committee. This motion was seconded, and there were no other nominations. He was elected unanimously.

PUBLICATIONS AND ADVERTISING

Rev. Birchard made a presentation on the Gay Christian, and distributed copies of the presentation to the delegates. It was moved to accept the Gay Christian as a district publication. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Northeast District provide an initial 100 copies of the Gay Christian for the Prison Ministry and that the District assume the cost of this for each issue.

NEW BUSINESS

This portion of the meeting was opened with presentations by Mr. Michael Nordstrom on the ministry to the handicapped, and a presentation by Rev. Joseph Gilbert on the Prison Ministry. After these presentations the meeting was adjourned until the following morning.

The meeting was reconvened on Sunday morning with a prayer.

MINISTRY TO HANDICAPPED

It was moved that the District draw up a statement expressing a desire to have Mike Nordstrom carry on the ministry to the handicapped and state that we recognize the need for work on this ministry in the District. This was seconded and passed unanimously. It was then moved that the District set aside $25.00 per month for Mr. Nordstrom's ministry to the blind and handicapped persons in the District, and that the Board or Vestry of each church and mission diligently strive to have each church provide $5.00 per month specifically and aside from all other projects for this work, and that regardless of whether or not the churches provide this money, the District will provide the $25.00. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PRISON MINISTRY

It was moved that as a District we invite Rev. Gilbert to attend the next District Conference, and that we will plan workshops on the prison ministry, and that we establish a definite prison ministry on the East Coast. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS OF REV. HUFF

It was moved, seconded and passed that this item of business be stricken from the agenda and that it be taken up by the Ministerial Credentials Committee in Atlanta.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDY GROUPS

Boston is working on the establishment of study groups in Manchester, New Hampshire and Worcester, Massachusetts. There is a request from an individual in Long Island, New York; the New York Church will investigate the feasibility of opening a mission in that area. There is a study group beginning in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and there is a request from a group in Cincinnati, Ohio to establish a mission there.

DISTRICT-WIDE RETREAT

Rev. Bowman said that he would like to see a District-wide retreat, projected for sometime this Fall. It was moved and seconded that he begin investigation and plans for such a retreat. The motion passed.

DISTRICT BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Rev. Wells reported that there was a national By-Laws Committee meeting on January 26, 27 and 28, held in Chicago. That committee has reportedly come up with a large number of proposed changes. Therefore, Rev. Wells moved that we defer our suggestions for By-Laws changes until after we have had an opportunity to see the work of the national committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

There was a discussion of representation of the specific needs of handicapped persons at General Conference and at District Conferences. Rev. Wells will take this matter under advisement.

MEMBERSHIP OF NONCHRISTIANS

After considerable discussion of this question by those present, Al Bouchard moved that we make a statement that we are addressing ourselves to the question of the role of "Friends" of the Church and that we do express our love and friendship and desire to have them continue to be in fellowship with us. The motion was seconded and passed.

ECUMENICITY

Rev. Wells presented a paper which he had prepared on ecumenicity, and moved that the Northeast District recognize the problems and that it proposes the solutions in this paper. The motion was seconded and passed. A copy of this statement is attached to these minutes.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DENVER

Rev. Wells moved that the topic of transportation for the next General Conference be deferred until the next District Conference. The motion was seconded and passed. Penny Perrault offered to obtain information on transportation arrangements.

PRISON MINISTRY

It was moved that as a District we invite Rev. Gilbert to attend the next District Conference, and that we will plan workshops on the prison ministry, and that we establish a definite prison ministry on the East Coast. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

PASTORAL COUNSELING OF REV. HUFF

It was moved, seconded and passed that this item of business be stricken from the agenda, and that it be taken up by the Ministerial Credentials Committee in Atlanta.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDY GROUPS

Rev. [illegible] residing on the establishment of study groups in Manchester, New Hampshire and Gloversville, Massachusetts. There is a request from an individual in Long Island, New York Church will investigate the feasibility of opening a mission in that area. There is a study group beginning in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and there is a request from a group in Cincinnati, Ohio to establish a mission there.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rev. [illegible] that he would like to see a District-wide retreat, projected for sometime [illegible]. It was moved and seconded that he begin investigation and plans for such a retreat. The motion passed.

DISTRICT BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Rev. Wells reported that there was a national By-Laws Committee meeting on January 26, 27 and 28, held in Chicago. That committee has reportedly come up with a large number of proposed changes. Therefore, Rev. Wells moved that we defer our suggestions for By-Laws change until after we have had an opportunity to see the work of the national committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

There was a discussion of representation of the specific needs of handicapped persons at General Conference and at District Conferences. Rev. Wells will take this matter under advisement.

MEMBERSHIP OF NONCHRISTIANS

After considerable discussion of this question by those present, Al Bourdeau moved that we make a statement that we are addressing ourselves to the question of the role of "Friends" of the Church and that we do express our love and friendship and desire to have them continue to be in fellowship with us. The motion was seconded and passed.

ROUNDMOUNTY

Rev. Wells presented a paper which he had prepared on ecumenicity, and moved that the Northeast District recognize the problem and that it proposes the solutions in this paper. The motion was seconded and passed. A copy of this statement is attached to these minutes.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DENVER

Rev. Wells moved that the topic of transportation for the next General Conference be deferred until the next District Conference. The motion was seconded and passed. Henry Perrault offered to obtain information on transportation arrangements.

LOCATION FOR NEXT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rev. Easton offered Washington, D. C. for the next conference. It was so moved, seconded and passed. The conference will be held on May 11, 12, and 13, 1973.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Perrault

Penny Perrault
Secretary-Treasurer
Northeast District
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Persault
Secretary-Treasurer
Northeast District
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

A CALL FOR CHRISTIAN ECUMENICITY

Problem

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is in danger of losing its characteristic of Christian ecumenicity.

History and Status of the Problem

In the early days of Metropolitan Community Church, the most pressing problem was one of simply surviving from week to week. The early congregations were drawn together as a community of common suffering.

When the Universal Fellowship was formed, a basic doctrine was drawn up that was encompassing enough to place it in the mainstream of Christian thought. Nevertheless, when the immediate survival of the church was assured, sectarianism began to assert itself. Incidents started to occur in which MCC'ers belittled each other because of religious differences in doctrine and tradition, e.g., transubstantiation, the wearing of ecclesiastical attire, speaking in tongues, healing services, social gospel activism, who is and who is not "spiritually pure," etc.

Some MCC congregations initially dealt with sectarianism by conducting services with various worship formats - "high church" in the mornings, "low church" in the evenings. Other congregations polled their members as to their preferences regarding worship format and abided by the desires of the majority.

These were temporary stop-gap measures; the problem still exists, and seems to be spreading to the national organizational level. Sectarianism was reflected in the debate on social activism at General Conference III and nothing has been done to change the Universal Fellowship's "fundamentalist" image. The problem is aggrevated by the careless use of volatile, image-creating terms in describing MCC - pentacostal, evangelical, liturgical, etc. Also, a city's gay community tends to judge the Universal Fellowship primarily on the basis of the image projected by the local MCC congregation.

A Proposal for Effective Response to the Problem

1. The Universal Fellowship must actively stive to project a national image that adequately reflects its ecumenical Christian doctrine.

2. The Universal Fellowship should not take a position on a doctrinal point that is clearly not in contradiction with the by-laws, and can be reasonably construed to be a matter of individual interpretation.

3. Recognizing that sectarianism breeds in an atmosphere of ignorance, the Universal Fellowship should establish a National Committee on Ecumenicity that will prepare an educational program, to be implemented on the congregational level, on the origins and meanings of the various traditions and doctrines reflected in the Christian Church. The program should not include value judgments regarding the various traditions and doctrines except on those that are clearly contrary to the doctrinal tenets of the Universal Fellowship.

4. The Universal Fellowship should issue a Statement of Position that includes the following points:

   - Human beings differ one from the other. Because of this basic fact, God's relationship with each person is unique, and therefore, that person's outward expression of his or her relationship with God is unique. Hence, we should

withhold final judgment as to the validity of a person's preferences of religious expression. Differences in religious preferences should be respected, not belittled.

- We ARE an ecumenical Christian movement. The only justifiable distinction that the Universal Fellowship can claim is that it is a voice in the wilderness, crying out against all forms of human oppression, particularly as it manifests itself within the Gay Community.

- "Spiritual purity" is NOT contingent on everyone's believing or professing the same interpretation of the Universal Fellowship's doctrinal tenets. Spiritual purity has meaning only in the context of whether a person "lives" his professed faith instead of just talking about it.

* * * * * *

This statement was submitted by Rev. Howard Wells at the Second Quarterly Conference of the Northeast District. It was accepted by the Conference as a statement of the Northeast District.

REV. J. E. PAUL BRETON
705 - 7th Street, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003
Tel.: (202) 547-4873

April 9, 1973

Brothers: and Sisters:

Time does indeed fly by and because of many happenings it is now time to write another epistle. Unlike St. Paul, however, I do not write this from prison.

First, let's start with Fellowship news. PRISON MINISTRIES: The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and all the churches of the Fellowship in California as well as the National Prison Ministry of the Fellowship filed suit on February 14, 1973 in United States District Court in San Francisco asking the Court to enjoin the State of California and the California Department of Corrections from prohibiting ministers of the Metropolitan Community Church from entering the prisons to minister to prisoners who asked for the ministry and religious services of the church.

MOTHER CHURCH BURNS: On the last weekend of January, fire broke out in the mother church. The fire destroyed 85% of the church. Every indication leads us to believe the fire may be arson. The fire started in the bell tower and swept through the sanctuary of the church. Somehow, the fire burned through the entire sanctuary, except that the wood altar, its fine altar cloths and the drape behind the altar were untouched. The church housed the Crisis Intervention Center, the Executive Offices of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and Samaritan Bible Seminary. The files of the church and the Fellowship were saved, and the entire library of the Seminary was spared. Rev. Perry was in Denver at the time of the fire. A call was placed through to him from Los Angeles. A short time later he was at the church. When asked by the police how he happened to have learned of the fire so fast, he said it was attributable to "telegraph, telephone and tell-a-queen". Rev. Perry admittedly wept bitterly at the fire. But this did not daunt him or the congregation. On Sunday morning, services were held in the street. (Chief Davis wasn't too happy about that.) And people provided $8,000.00 in the collection toward the building of a new church. The Gay Community Services Center under the direction of Morris Kight has provided outstanding assistance to the church since the fire began. Services are now being held in the Aquarius Theater.

ATLANTA MINISTERS CONFERENCE: The First Eastern Regional Ministers Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia on the weekend of February 16, 17, 18. Ministers, Deacons and Exhorters from all over the East Coast converged on MCC-Atlanta. Rev. John Gill, pastor of Atlanta, and the congregation provided a welcome hospitality warmth and congeniality to the occasion. Among those present were the four elders. Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder and Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles and author of the Book The Lord Is My Shepherd And He Knows I'm Gay is the Moderator of the Board of Elders. Rev. John H. Hose, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego, is the Administrative Elder. Rev. Richard Ploen, Dean of Samaritan Bible Seminary, is another elder. And finally but certainly not least is Rev. Lou Loynes.

The Ministerial Credentials Committee met that weekend also. The Committee consisted of Rev. John Hose, Rev. Ron Carnes pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Denver, and Rev. Howard Wells founder of Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco and of New York.

Also represented was the Board of Evangelism and World Missions which had its own workshop. Rev. Lee J. Carlton, founder and former pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Tampa and currently Assistant Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, is the Secretary of this Board. He outlined the list of Target Cities for 1973.

Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Director of Prison Ministries, also gave a rewarding workshop on his field. He is the founder and former pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Sacramento, and is currently interim pastor of Metropolitan Community Churhc of Phoenix.

Workshops on the structure, government, doctrine, Christian Edication and fiscal responsibility of the Universal Fellowship were provided by the Elders.

The National Association of Deacons was represented by its president, Mr. William Thorne of Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, who provided a very enthusiastic and moving workshop on the work of Deacons. The workshop also inclu-ded a movie from Key '73. How's your PCA? Ask yourself when you think about JOY.

Sunday's service was a moving experience to say the least. Among the celebrants of the service was Rev. Freda Smith. She is assistant minister at Metropolitan Community Church of Sacramento and one of a growing number of feminist ministers in the Fellowship. She spoke frankly, forthrightly, truthfully and movingly. The celebrant of Holy Communion was the distinguished Rev. Frank Crouch, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Miami. A highlight of the service was an attractive young man who resembled in size more the legendary leprechaun. Yet he bellowed out with amazing testimony to His Lord the grand hymn "The King Is Coming".

I think we can all be most grateful for the tremendous opportunity of this conference. Indeed the Lord blessed us well and He taught me much.

Now on the District scene.

SECOND QUARTERLY CONFERENCE of the Northeast District was held in Metropolitan Community Church of Boston on February 3, 4, 5. The business end of the Conference covered a wide avariety of topics. The highlights of the Conference can be covered.

THE GAY CHRISTIAN is now officially the publication of the Northeast District. This magazine is the most professional within the Fellowship and stands on a par with the finest of ecclesiastical, religious and organizational publications. The product of Rev. Roy Birchard, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of New York, this magazine is an invaluable asset to any church, organization, publication or home both within and without the gay community. The Gay Christian can be obtained at the distribution times and centers of your local churches in the Northeast or by subscription. For subscription, you may contact my office.

PRISON MINISTRIES: Rev. Joseph Gilbert presented an hour-long workshop on Prison Ministries. Each congregation is requested to submit the name of one person to correspond with prisoners. Plus this District is requested to find one Deacon or a person interested in becoming a Deacon to be assigned on the District level to coordinate Prison Ministries in the Northeast.

AID TO THE HANDICAPPED: Mr. Michael Nordstrom, a seminarian from Bible Samaritan Seminary in Los Angeles, presented a workshop on special ministry to blind, deaf and other handicapped gays. Mr. Nordstrom, who himself is blind and gay, will coordinate this ministry on the District level.

SERVICES: Sunday's service was held in the main sanctuary of Arlington Street Church (Unitarian). This church has a long history of standing up and fighting for freedom and other causes. It is most noted as being a pre-civil war abolitionist church. Fittingly, its stately hall was hallowed by the chartering of the Boston church by Rev. Troy D. Perry. The pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Boston is a very energetic, firmly committed and devout young Christian by name of Rev. Lawrence G. Bernier. And assisting him is Ms. Nancy Wilson.

STATUS OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT:

CHURCH	PASTOR	ATTNEDANCE
MCC-BOSTON	REV. LAURENCE G. BERNIER	100 +
MCC-NEW YORK	REV. ROY BIRCHARD	45 +
MCC-PHILADELPHIA	NO PASTOR	100 +
CALVARY TEMPLE-MCC-BALTIMORE MISSION	REV. JAMES HUFF	35 +
MCC-WASHINGTON	NO PASTOR	50 +
MCC-STUDY GROUP-PROVIDENCE, R. I.	MR. ART CAZEAULT	60 +
MCC-STUDY GROUP-MANCHESTER, N. H.	REV. L. G. BERNIER	20 +

A tentative request has come to us from Connecticut to start an MCC there. Another contact from Cincinnati is starting an MCC there. A Study Group may be started soon in Worcester, Massachusetts. At this moment, each church is rapidly growing.

Rev. Keith D. Dvais has submitted his resignation as pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia effective March 4, 1973. MCC-Phila. now needs a Licensed or Ordained Minister to pastor the church. I have submitted my resignation to Metropolitan Community Church of Washington effective Easter Sunday, April 22, 1973. This church also needs a Licensed or Ordained Minister.
HELP! ALL AVAILABLE PRIESTS, MINISTERS, SEMINARIANS. THE FELLOWSHIP NEEDS DESPERATELY ABOUT 100 CLERGY AS OF LAST WEEK. THIS DISTRICT COULD USE ALONE ABOUT TEN CLERGY. IF YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, OR EVEN YOUR ENEMIES KNOW ANYONE IN THE CLERGY WILLING TO WIRK WITH US, CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY. Any clergy interested in currently pastoring the Philadelphia or Washington churches, please forward your identifying material and resumes to my office as soon as possible.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WASHINGTON: I personally want to advise all of you that on Saturday, Febuary 10, 1973 I tendered to the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Community Church of Washington my resignation effective as of Easter Sunday, April 22, 1973. During regularly scheduled Worship services on Sunday afternoon February 11, 1973 in the cahpel of First Congregational United Church of Christ, I announced to the congregation and made public my resignation. The reasons for my resignation are obtainable upon request. My plans as of the present are very simple. First, I will remain in the Office of District Coordinator until the time effective for election of a New Coordinator in November. Second, I will be returning full time to college at the University of Maryland in College Park to complete 15 necessary credits toward a B. A. and then enter seminary to complete courses toward a degreee in Theology.

I have appraised the Board of Directors of the procedural steps for locating candidates for the pastorate. There is no doubt in my mind that the candidates pre sented to the congregation will be the most exemplary clergy. I am requesting from the Board of Elders a list of potential candidates from within the Fellowship. And I am contacting other clergy as well.

(This paragarph is not available for publication.) Until such time as a new pastor is elected, Mr. John Barbone is the acting pastor. He may be reached at (703) 522-8240.

I have already appointed chairpersons of the Music Committee, Social Activities Committee, Prisons Committee, Handicapped Ministry.

The Board of Directors has accepted a full counseling program under the sponsorship of the church. This program is staffed by volunteer professionals of various fields to provide minimum cost counseling of whatever type necessary. The program should be starting any day. Contact the acting pastor for more information.

The Metropolitan Community Church of Washington has committed itself to the Prison Ministries and to the Ministry to the Blind, Deaf and other Handicapped Ga-s.

The current status of the church is very positive and forward looking. The treasury at the February meeting of the Board of Directors stands at $500.00 with about $250.00 owing. Attendance at services has been about the 50 mark and increasing. Applications for membership are increasing. More stable people are joining the church. Very soon a nursery will have to be provided for the children of the church. And in the not too distant future a Sunday School will have to be provided. A beautiful home for worship is now guaranteed. The entusiasm of the congregation is strong. The church has a very conscientious and dependable staff. There is nodoubt the church is here to stay. With faith in the Lord Jesus and through the protection and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the church will grow and prosper. The church will make a heavy mark here in Washington. All other churches will eventually have to turn an attentive ear to this congregation. This churc- is the only church which has had and will continue to provide a full, active ministry of care and compassion to those whom other churches have maliciously neglected.

The immediate needs of the church upon the actuation of my resignation are as follows:

1. Provision of minimal or no cost office space.
2. Provision of minimal or no cost counseling space.
3. File cabinets.
4. Desks.
5. Assorted office furnishings and furniture.
6. One chalice.
7. Hymnals (New Unite Methodist)
8. One typewriter.
9. MATERIAL PRINTED IN BRAILLE OR RECORDED TAPES FOR THE BLIND.
10. Volunteers to work in all fields of Evangelism, especially with the Handicapped and Prison Ministires.

THE REMAINING MATERIAL AND SPECIFICS THEREOF IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

From our earliest days and standing side by side with me has been John Ellis Isbell, III. I first knew him as a seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary. I attended his ordination as a Deacon at the National Cathedral. And I witnessed his ordination to the priesthood in Christ Church Episcopal in Clinton, Maryland.

As a friend, assistant and co-founder of MCC-Washington, he is well remembered and loved by everyone. Last summer he moved to Honolulu, Hawaii to be a canon of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Andrew. To use an old high school terminology, Jack was royally shafted by his bishop, merely for being gay. His bishop observed moralistic principles and human law to deposition Jack. (One Episcopal priest said that all Episcopal bishops must be homosexual because they love to screw their priests who are.) Since in MCC our morality is founded in the Gospels and the law we follow is Jesus Christ, Jack has come to us. Now, the news is that he is the pastor of MCC-Hawaii. We (all of us) welcome Jack to MCC.

To everything there is a season. As each person grows and matures in the Lord, changes occur. With a positive attitude, the changes themselves are positive. Such a change took place in our brother, Tom Osborne. On May 2, 1971, Tom attended the first service in the sparse chapel of MCC-W. Later he was to be found waiting tables at the Capitol Hill Townhouse. He wasn't really interested in church or religion then. On the first Sunday of November, 1971, he came back. Perhaps curiosity drove him here. Needless to say, he preferred his social life too much to get involved except to serve on the Board of Directors as Church Clerk, to be Licensed an Exhorter and ordained a Deacon. On the principle of keeping his church activities limited, he provided a program of assistante to prisoners in Petersburg, Virginia; initiated many programs and continuously got himself more and more involved. Since he was not too religious, he limited his activities to conducting services, preaching, leading in prayer, etc... Excuse the analogy, or parallel, but he was to the pastor what Henry Kissinger is to the President. Without going into all tributes well deserved, he left here with countless numbers of friends bidding him Godspeed. As a Deacon and Exhorter, to say he will be an asset to MCC Atlanta is a great understatement. To find him in hte ministry eventually will be to the greater glory and honor of almighty God and of our Fellowship. We all wish him the greatest happiness and fulfillment the love of God can bring.

And now some personal reflections. Founding and pastoring this church has provided a wide variety of experiences, joys and rewards. At times the task has seemed a total impossibility. Some of the heartbreaks have taken their toll. Some of the fulfillments have beeen remarkable experiences. Yet, if it were necessary, I would do it all over again. I am thankful to God for the great evangelistic opportunity that was provided me and the people here throught this church. At.least the church is now here. Perhaps the next pastor will be able to do with this church what I was not able to do. This Fellowship of churches is the greatest event in Christian history since the Reformation. The Lord has provided His power and love to each of our churc-hes as well as MCC-W.

This church would never have been possible, however, without the stubborn stick-to-itiveness and faith of several people who since the beginning have stuck it out through every adversity. To these people I extend my sincerest thanks and pray for the blessings of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Among the more memorable but certainly not endless list of names to be remembered are : Jaime Ruben Arreguin-Avila etc...; Thomas Lewis Osborne; Robert Kohler; W. Scott Johnson; A. (?) Richard Weatherly; John Michael Barbone (the godfather?) Craig Sills; Penny Perrault; and Art and Terry. And to all the rest, many many thanks.

I will see all of you again on Easter Sunday when I preach for the last time as your pastor.

For those of you who wrote and signed a petition requesting the Ministerial Credentials Committee to consider my ordination, I extend to you my gratitude and appreciation.

It is humbling to recognize the esteem which the people I serve hold for me. In justice I must report to the decision of the Committee. Guided by the Holy Spirit, it was their decision to approve me for ordination. With prayer and meditation I joyfully com-it myself to their decision for their decision is that of themy Lord and Savior. I ask all of you then to attend the Sunday Worship of the Third Quarterly Conference of the Northeast District to be held on May 13, during which time hands will be laid upon my head to bring me to the ministry of the Lord.

And finally, we invite all of you to attend the Third Quarterly Conference of the Northeast District to be held in and hosted by the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington on the weekend of May 11, 12, 13. May 11, the second birthday of the Church, will see a Worship held in the chapel of First Congregational United Church of Christ. May 12 finds St. Cecelia's High Scholl, on the corner of 6th and East Capitol St., provideing usage of gymnasium and cafeteria for the business conference and evening worship. And the main Worship with Holy Communion will be celebrated at 4 PM on Sunday, May 13, in the main sanctuary of First Congregational at 10th and G Sts., N. W. Please come, all of you.

This eventful chapter is now closing. Praying everyday for each of you, I remain gratefully requesting your prayers for me as

your brother in Christ,

REV. J. E. PAUL BRETON
DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Minutes

Third Quarterly Conference

Washington, D. C.

May 12, 1973

The Third Quarterly Conference of the Northeast District was hosted by the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D. C. The proposed agenda is attached (attachment #1).

The meeting was convened at 10:15 am with a prayer by Rev. Pollak. In attendance as ministers and delegates were Rev. Laurence Bernier (Licensed Minister), Pastor, and Mr. Al Bouchard (Lay Delegate), Metropolitan Community Church of Boston; Rev. Roy Birchard (Ordained Minister), Pastor, and Mr. Leo Stoeckl (Lay Delegate), Metropolitan Community Church of New York; Rev. Jay Neely (Licensed Exhorter/Deacon), Interim Pastor, and Mr. John Graham (Lay Delegate), Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia; Rev. John M. Barbone (Licensed Exhorter/Deacon), Interim Pastor, and Ms. Paula Turner (Lay Delegate), Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D. C.; Rev. Karen Pollak (Licensed Exhorter), Interim Pastor, and Ms. Rayme Fair (Lay Delegate), Metropolitan Community Church, Manchester Mission; Rev. Arthur Cazeault (Licensed Exhorter), Interim Pastor, and Mr. Robert Grenier (Lay Delegate), Metropolitan Community Church, Providence Mission; Rev. James Huff (Licensed Exhorter), Interim Pastor, Calvary Temple Metropolitan Community Church, Baltimore Mission (locally known as Calvary Temple MCC of Maryland, Inc.).* Also present were Rev. Howard Wells (Ordained Minister); Rev. Keith Davis (Licensed Minister); Rev. Joseph Gilbert (Ordained Minister), Director, Prison Ministries; Mr. Michael Nordstrom (Lay Person), Director of Special Ministry to the Handicapped; Rev. J. E. Paul Breton (Licensed Minister), District Coordinator; and Ms. Penny Perrault (Licensed Exhorter), District Secretary/Treasurer. Also present were several guests.

Rev. Breton gave a brief welcoming address and reviewed the agenda and proposed timetable for the Conference.

The minutes of the Second Quarterly Conference were read. Two amendments were made, the first inserting "Rev. Nancy Wilson, Associate Pastor" immediately following the listing of Rev. Laurence Bernier; and the second deleting "and Rev. Bill Spangler, voting delegate" immediately following the listing of Rev. Keith Davis. Both amendments were in the second paragraph of the minutes, and these were the only amendments made. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as amended.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

The District Coordinator, Rev. Breton, reported on his visits to each of the churches and missions in the District, and commented that, as a whole, the Northeast District is strong and growing.

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*Secretary's note: The representatives of Calvary Temple MCC of Maryland, Inc., did not arrive until the meeting had been in progress for over an hour.

Manchester Mission: Manchester is the largest city in New Hampshire. The [illegible] mission there has been opened under the leadership of Rev. Karen Pollak. Attendance has been around 23-25, which is a good number for this area, and there is a good hope of a continuing church in Manchester.

Boston Church: The attendance in Boston has been over 100. This is a very healthy and strong church.

Providence Mission: The Providence Mission has not yet been visited by the District Coordinator, however, Rev. Cazeault has reported that attendance has been around the 75 mark.

New York Church: The attendance in New York has been around 75. This church has some problems unique to areas such as New York and Washington, D. C., however, they are coping well with the problems, and the church as a whole is strong and growing.

Philadelphia Church: Rev. Davis has resigned as Pastor, and Rev. Neely is serving as Interim Pastor. The attendance is over 100, the church is strong, and Rev. Neely is providing very positive leadership there.

Washington, D. C. Church: The church is strong, with attendance around 60. Rev. Barbone is serving as Interim Pastor.

Baltimore Mission: At present this mission is fairly small, with attendance around 30, and is growing, although it is financially not stable.

The District Coordinator reported that as a whole, the District is strong and growing. The District has received requests for missions in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Wilmington, Delaware, and Syracuse, New York. The feasibility of study groups and/or missions in these areas is being studied.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ms. Penny Perrault, the District Secretary/Treasurer, reported that an account has been opened for the District. $160.86 was received from the churches in the District during the last quarter, and expenses have been $150.89, leaving a working balance of $9.97 in the District's treasury. It was again requested that the churches in the District send carbon copies of correspondence relevant to the District to the Secretary for the District records.

REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES AND MISSIONS

Reports were given by the pastors of the churches and missions.

Manchester Mission: The Manchester Mission is currently worshipping in a gay bar, and the attendance has been in the 20's. They are about to establish a chapel and offices at 145 Orange Street in Manchester. Their first worship at the new location will be on May 27. The congregation has a good mixture of men and women, and there is a good deal of cooperation between the men and women in the church.

Boston Church: The Boston Church was chartered the day after the last District Conference, and was privileged to have Rev. Troy Perry present for the chartering. There were 193 people worshipping at the Charter Service. The average attendance has been around 100, and it is expected that attendance will increase to around 150 in the near future. There has been a substantial increase in the number of women at services,

largely due to the efforts of Rev. Ms. Nancy Wilson. Offerings have averaged between $150 and $200. The offices have been expanded, and include a small chapel/meeting room. The first congregational meeting was held recently, at which a Council on Ministries, consisting of the Vestry and chairpersons of various committees, was established. The church has had growing pains. The church has good community relations. At present they are investigating the feasibility of establishing a mission in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Providence Mission: Attendance has been around 75, with a strong core of 35 to 40 people. Penny Perrault has been serving as Associate Pastor. They are rapidly outgrowing their present worship quarters, and are looking for new ones. They have an average of 50% women in the congregation. Finances are a problem, but they are planning social activities to supplement the church's income.

New York Church: They have been building up congregational participation in the church, and are working on a council of gay organizations as part of their ministry to the gay community in New York. The attendance has grown rapidly in recent weeks, and they are averaging around 50 at services, with over 90 on special occasions. They have licensed a second exhorter, Jose Mojica. The congregation is actively working to eliminate sexism in the church.

Philadelphia Church: Rev. Neely has accepted the interim pastorate of the church and is being assisted by Rev. Jim Kennedy. Attendance has been consistently over 100. They are presently seeking new quarters, have an active prison ministry, and a ministry to gay youth, including a youth group of over 15 members. They have also increased the number of women's activities held by the church. Rev. Perry will be visiting the Philadelphia church on June 17.

Baltimore Mission: At the time of the individual church reports the delegates fromm Baltimore had not yet arrived, so their report was deferred until their arrival.

Washington, D. C. Church: Mr. Richard Weatherly has been licensed an exhorter, and they have an application from a woman in the congregation to be considered for licensure as an exhorter. They have made inroads in bringing women into the church, largely through holy unions. They are still looking for a place to worship, and are hopeful that their present host, First Congregational United Church of Christ, will accept them on a permanent basis. The average attendance has been in the 40's, and they will shortly be accepting six new members. There is an active core of about 25 people in the church. They have been having success in reaching both the leather and drag communities, and are planning to do radio programs. There has been considerable cooperation from the bars, and at least one bar is reminding people of services at the time of "last call" on Saturday evenings. They are active in the Washington Area Gay Community Council.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

There was no report from Rev. Barbone on the Christian Education Committee, due to his heavy schedule as pastor in Washington. Because of this, Rev. Barbone requested that his resignation as director of this committee be accepted. It was so moved, seconded and passed. Nominations were then opened for a new chairperson. Rev. Jim Kennedy was the only nomination given. It was moved, seconded and passed to close nominations and Rev. Kennedy was elected chairperson. Rev. Kennedy may be reached in care of the Philadelphia Church.

GAY CHRISTIAN

Rev. Birchard reported that he was uncertain of the next publication date for the Gay Christian, since the printing bill from the last issue could not yet be met -- the bills to the various churches for previous issues of the Gay Christian will be sent shortly, and he urged that these bills be paid promptly. He reported that many other churches use the magazine extensively, as well as such groups as Dignity. They are currently planning a women's issue. There have been problems with receiving material from the various churches for the magazine. It was moved that each church elect a representative to the Gay Christian to be responsible for obtaining material for publication, and also for seeing that the churches pay Gay Christian bills promptly. The motion was seconded and passed. Leo Stoeckl requested that checks for the Gay Christian be sent directly to him to facilitate handling. His address is 333 East 14th Street, Apartment 4-K, New York, New York, 10003.

One other problem has arisen -- at present each church is being charged 15¢ per copy. However, it is costing the New York Church 21¢ per copy to publish the magazine, and the New York Church has had to absorb the deficit. However, they are unable to continue doing this indefinitely. It was determined that a wholesale cost to the churche of 25¢ per copy would cover the costs involved with publication. It was moved, seconded and passed to raise the wholesale cost to the churches of the Gay Christian to 25¢ per copy.

REPORT FROM THE BALTIMORE MISSION

The report from the Baltimore Mission was given at this time, since the delegation from that mission had arrived. The majority of the report was given by the attorney for the Calvary Temple MCC of Maryland, Inc., Dr. Marshall Stewart. He reported that Calvary Temple MCC of Maryland, Inc. had recently incorporated as a church in the state of Maryland. He reported that they were considering the possibility of a permanent structure for Calvary Temple, and that there was a possibility of using a church that had been named an historical building. They have entered into a contract to buy a gay bar/restaurant, which would be run to help support the church in Baltimore. Rev. Huff reported that the church has been active in gay affairs over a wide area, and had attended a workshop on homosexuality at Rutgers University.

ADDRESS BY REV. JOHN HOSE.

Rev. Breton introduced Rev. Hose, Vice Moderator of the Board of Elders of the Fellowship, who was a guest for the District Conference. Rev. Hose spoke briefly to the Conference, and said that he saw a need for action by the churches in three areas: (1) social events -- gay people have a real need for activities outside of the bars, and the church has a responsibility to the congregation to provide at least some social events. He emphasized that this was a valuable way to bring gays to the church "through the back door," i.e. allowing them to become acquainted with the members and some of the other activities, and then bringing them to worship. (2) The second point that was strongly made is the necessity for stewardship. The responsibility of the congregation to support the church must be conveyed to the people, not only for the financial stability of the church, but for the effect of placing a real sense of responsibility for the church with the people. He suggested that in addition to pledges and offerings, the social activities were excellent fund raising projects, and that these activities need not necessarily be planned as fund raising functions. He emphasized that the ministers and Boards of Directors/Vestries should not be afraid to ask for money. (3) Rev. Hose's third point was that there should be a strong evangelism program within each church, and that the churches should remember that even with large congregations, there are still thousands who have not yet been reached with the word of God. In this vein he suggested an active bar ministry as

[illegible] and that the people in the congregation should be given enough background and training about MCC to carry on an active personal evangelism among others in their everyday activities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business brought up by anyone present at the Conference.

NEW BUSINESS

Finances: There was a lengthy discussion of possible means of meeting the financial needs of the District. Several proposals were put forth, primarily involving the 5% set aside for evangelism and missions, however, none of the proposals set forth would provide sufficient funds to meet District financial obligations. It was determined that at least an estimated budget must be given. Ms. Perrault requested that an ad hoc committee with one representative from each church be formed to develop an estimated budget and to return later in the meeting with a proposed budget. It was so moved, seconded and passed.

SAMARITAN BIBLE SEMINARY

Rev. Breton read a report taken by telephone from Samaritan Bible Seminary. This report is attached to these minutes (attachment #2).

WORKSHOPS

Following the report by Rev. Breton on the seminary, Mr. Michael Nordstrom, Coordinator of the Special Ministry to the Handicapped; and Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Director of Prison Ministries, gave talks and conducted brief workshops on their special ministries. A memorandum read by Mr. Nordstrom is attached as attachment #3.

REPORT OF AD HOC BUDGET COMMITTEE

Following the meeting of the ad hoc committee, Rev. Wells presented the estimated budget drawn up by the committee. The estimated expenses follow here:

Special Ministry to the Handicapped	$75.00*
Cost of 100 copies per issue of Gay Christian for Prison Ministries	$50.00
Office Supplies	$20.00
Postage	$20.00
District Officers' Transportation to and from District Conferences	$40.00
Partial Reimbursement to District Coordinator for Telephone	$15.00
TOTAL	$220.00

*Expenses are listed here on a quarterly basis.

The committee estimated that to meet this budget each of the four chartered churches would have to contribute roughly $18.50 monthly. There was general agreement that this amount could be rounded to $20.00, and it was moved, seconded and passed that each church would contribute $20.00 per month on a monthly payment basis to the support of the District.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Because General Conference is so close to the time when a regular district conference would be held, it was moved, seconded and passed that the next district conference be postponed until the end of October. Baltimore offered to host the next district conference. It was so moved. An amendment was offered and accepted that Providence be used as an alternate site, in the event that Baltimore found itself unable to host the conference. The motion as amended was seconded and passed. The weekend of October 19, 20, and 21 was suggested and it was so moved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion followed regarding provisions for a conference at the end of the summer, in the event that it appeared essential. It was moved that the District Coordinator, after a vote from all pastors, could call a meeting before the next district conference. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at approximately 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Perrault

Penny Perrault
Secretary/Treasurer
Northeast District
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

Attachment #1

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

+

THIRD QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

hosted by

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WASHINGTON

May 12, 1973

+

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Welcome and Announcements - Rev. Breton

Presentation of Minutes of Second Quarterly Conference

Report of the District Coordinator

Report of the District Secretary/Treasurer

Reports from Individual Churches and Missions

COMPLETION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Financing

OPEN FLOOR

Workshops

I. Ministry to the Handicapped - Mr. Michael Nordstrom

II. Prison Ministry - Rev. Joseph Gilbert

III. Church Leadership - Rev. Laurence G. Bernier and Rev. Howard Wells

a. Pastors, Exhorters and Deacons Rap Group

b. Directors and Committee Chairpersons Rap Group

c. Women in Church leadership Rap Group

IV. Tie-Up - Mr. Nordstrom, Rev. Gilbert, Rev. Bernier, Rev. Wells, Rev. Pollak

Close Conference

Closing Prayer

REPORT ON SAMARITAN BIBLE SEMINARY

The following is a report transmitted to the District Coordinator, Rev. J. E. Paul Breton, by Rev. James Sandmire per a telephone conversation on Thursday evening, May 10, 1973 in regard to Samaritan Bible Seminary.

Rev. James Sandmire is the pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco and the President of Samaritan Bible Seminary.

Rev. Richard Ploen is an Assistant Minister at Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles and Dean of Samaritan Bible Seminary.

Rev. James Sandmire and Rev. Richard Ploen will be touring the churches of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches during the summer of 1973. The dates of availability for the churches of the Northeast District will be made available to all the pastors in due time. The basic purpose of the tour is to provide to the local churches direct information on Samaritan Bible Seminary. Another and perhaps more major purpose is to interview candidates for the seminary in the local congregations. Pastors are requested to search through their congregations for possible interested parties to attend seminary. Those prospective candidates will be interviewed by Rev. Sandmire and Rev. Ploen.

As of the next semester, among the requirements to attend seminary, a prospective candidate will present himself or herself to the congregation for approval, as in the case of presentation for Exhortership. Upon being approved by the local congregation, the candidate will be interviewed by the Board of Directors of his or her congregation. Subsequently the prospective candidate will be interviewed by the pastor of his or her congregation. And finally the prospective candidate will be interviewed by the District Coordinator of the District in which the congregation happens to be located. No one will be admitted to seminary who has not followed these procedures.

The local congregations are advised to not send to the seminary prospective candidates unless the local congregations are willing to assist as best as possible the prospective candidate. The Seminary cannot afford to take in penniless and unsupported candidates.

Pastors and Boards of Directors are advised to make a special and substantially noteworthy effort to seek out women candidates for the seminary. There is a growing and dire need for women ministers within the Fellowship.

The quality of the Seminary has been markedly improved during the past year. The drop out rate of the students has substantially subsided.

The financial stability of the seminary has substantially increased. The Northwest and Southwest Districts have been sending in a portion of the monies received from the local churches to the Seminary. The tuition has been raised. Gifts and grants are being requested and obtained.

It is proposed that the District Conference appoint an Educational Coordinator for the seminary.

The Educational Coordinator will assist in the following areas:

1. Developing, providing and teaching of short courses for ministers coming into the Fellowship from other denominations.

2. Developing, providing and teaching a series of Exhorters' classes aimed at preparing possible seminary students.

3. Inaugurate fund-raising activities and research grants.

4. Develop, provide and package seminars on sex and religion to be offered to seminaries and other institutions outside of the Fellowship.

Samaritan Bible Seminary is by no means trying to imitate or adopt the curriculum and standards of the seminaries of other denominations. Rather the seminary is gearing itself to provide that degree of education and training of direct relevance to the ministers of the Fellowship, the purpose of the Fellowship and the Direction of the Fellowship which will produce knowledgeable, effective and professional ministers. Since so many seminaries of other denominations are already closing their doors because of failure, this seminary is taking a drastic, imaginative and foundationally well-balanced new approach toward the preparation of candidates for the ministry.

Attachment #3

May 12, 1973

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pastors in the Northeast District, UFMCC

FROM: Michael S. Nordstrom - Co-ordinator, Special Ministry to the Handicapped

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Special Ministry to the Handicapped at the Local Church Level

Following is a listing of ideas that would lead to the involvement of handicapped individuals in the Spiritual Life and Fellowship of all churches in the Northeast District.

These ideas are offered through me as Coordinator of Special Ministry to the Handicapped. But, the ideas themselves come from the handicapped that I have dealt with in the different cities I have visited within the Northeast District.

The local Pastor with his or her local Board of Directors must evaluate and implement the actual ideas they feel will work in their own cities. These ideas are:

1. It is suggested that each local MCC establish a "Committee of the HANDICAPABLE." The Committee might function best if its members include three (3) individuals who have no physical handicaps as well as three (3) individuals who are handicapped. The Pastor of the local Church, or his representative, might serve as the seventh member of this committee.

   Those individuals chosen to serve on this committee without handicaps might be one each of individuals who have expressed an interest in working:

   (a) with the blind;
   (b) with the deaf;
   (c) with the paraplegic.

   You might consider the three handicapped to include on each of the above categories.

   It is understood that our Churches, at least for the present, do not have all of these various forms of handicapped individuals attending them.

   It is hoped that such a committee would reflect involvement of those who the committee is set up to help. It is suggested, therefore, that places be made available on this committee and left vacant until such time as that particular form of handicapped person is represented.

2. It is suggested that this local committee initiate:

   A. For the Deaf:

      1. Sign Language interpreting of the worship services with or without deaf people attending.

      2. Sign Language courses for those who can hear so that as deaf come to our Churches we have individuals who can communicate with them and really involve them in the Spiritual Life and Fellowship of MCC.

      3. The Pastors, themselves, learning enough sign language to administer communion to the deaf.

B. For the Blind:

1. Have the current Church facility evaluated by an Orientation and Mobility instructor from a local school for the blind in terms of safety hazards that a blind person attending our services might encounter.

2. Set up a "readers service" for the blind using volunteers.

3. Explore the possibility of teaching braille to interested members of local congregations so that we can send out announcements and/or publications of the local churches to blind individuals in a media they can relate to.

C. For the Paraplegic:

1. Request an evaluation of the current Church facility as it relates to the individuals who are in wheel chairs. Question: What is there that we can do that would at least enable a person in a wheel chair to worship with us. Ramps may be needed, bathroom facilities may need to be slightly altered, etc.

2. After evaluation of what needs to be done, explore the possibility of getting it donated through the American Red Cross, Foundations dealing with the Paraplegic, etc.

3. Explore the feasibility of setting up a transportation pool to insure that the paraplegic has a way of getting to Church.

4. In areas where necessary alterations cannot be made, it may be necessary to preach to a group in wheel chairs outside or on the church grounds.

D. For ALL:

1. Once a week have a rap group dealing with the problems of the handicapped. Keep this group open to all individuals who are handicapped -- regardless what that handicap might be.

2. Hold a pot-luck dinner once a month bringing the handicapped and the healthy together in a social setting.

3. Interaction would be a good thing. Get the blind to learn sign language -- get the deaf to learn braille -- get the paraplegic to learn both. Break down barriers of communications between the handicapped themselves.

4. Once a quarter, each local Church might recognize a Special Sunday for the handicapped. In other words, the handicapped would conduck the service, except for the communion.

5. Reach out into the community at large. Many schools and institutions with children cannot provide enough social events. Perhaps our Churches, on a local basis might arrange a dinner or a picnic or something of that sort.

Some of these suggestions may sound simple and uncomplicated. They are -- but -- they are the means our local congregations can provide just what the handicapped need to become handicapable: the

opportunity to help themselves.

Should any of the Pastors have any questions about this paper, please feel free to contact me through:

Metropolitan Community Church
360 West 28th Street
New York, New York 10001.

Your brother thru Christ,

/s/

Michael S. Nordstrom
Coordinator - Special Ministry
to the Handicapped
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

NORTHEAST DISTRICT OF

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

+

FOURTH QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

hosted by

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

OCTOBER 20, 1973

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AGENDA

OPENING WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES OF THIRD QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS:
- District Coordinator
- District Secretary
- District Treasurer
- District Director of Handicapped Ministry
- District Director of Prison Ministry
- District Christian Education Committee
- Churches, Missions, Study Groups, Feasibility Studies

FIRST ANNUAL STANDING REPORT OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT

COMPLETION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SUBMISSION OF NEW PROPOSALS AND ELECTIONS

OPEN FLOOR

CLOSE CONFERENCE

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Note: In accord with the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches as of General Conference of 1972, the District Coordinator was elected for a period not to exceed one year. The same holds true for the District Secretary/Treasurer. In accord with the new By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship as of General Conference 1973, a specified term of office must be established and a new District Coordinator and other officers must be elected.

The Northeast District
Universal Fellowship Of
Metropolitan Community Churches

REV. J. E. PAUL BRETON
District Coordinator
MS. PENNY PERRAULT
Secretary/Treasurer

705 - 7th Street, S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20003
XXXXXXXX

October 20, 1973

Ministers and Congregations
In Assembly for the
Fourth District Conference of the
Northeast District of the
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings in Christ's Name:

The intent and purpose of the presentation of this document is to give an accounting of the State of the Uortheast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and to provide a legal record and documentation of the ministers, churches and ministries of the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. This document will be made available to the official delegates of the Fourth District Conference and will be presented as the first item of official business for the Conference on Saturday, October 20, 1973.

This document provides appraisals of the actions of the Board of Elders, the Board of Evangelism and World Missions and the Ministerial Affairs and Credentials Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches toward the Northeast District as well as the actions of the District Coordinator, District Secretary/Treasurer and the District Board of Home Missions during the church year 1973 beginning November 11, 1972 through October 20, 1973.

Further in consideration of economics of time, it will contain recommendations and resolutions for action by this Conference, which hopefully will be considered by the Conference as approving these recommendations and actions as a single entity. Exceptions will be: the election of a District Coordinator, the election of a District Secretary, the election of a District Treasurer, and addenda relative to formative and operational changes which require the adoption of the Conference.

The Lord has indeed seen fit to bless and prosper our work during the year being concluded. He has laid burdens and trials on our hearts and made us aware of some of our shortcomings. Further, He has admonished us to labor ever more diligently in extending His exemplary Grace to more and more of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

For the sake of comparison, it is interesting to note that at the First District Conference of the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, there were three (3) churches and two (2) missions represented and functioning. Represented at the Fourth District Conference are the following Churches, Missions and Study Groups with official representation:

CHURCHES	LAY DELEGATES	PASTORS AND MINISTERS
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	ONE	TWO
NEW YORK, NEW YORK	ONE	TWO
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA	TWO	TWO
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND	ONE	ONE
WASHINGTON, D. C.	ONE	ONE

MISSIONS	LAY DELEGATES	CLERGY DELEGATES
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND	ONE	ONE

STUDY GROUPS	OBSERVERS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT	ONE
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY	ONE - CHAPLAIN

FEASIBILITY STUDIES	OBSERVERS
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY	ONE

Significant actions taken during the course of the past year:

February 4, 1973, after having been chartered by the Board of Elders, Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator of the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches presented the charter to the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, during services held by the church in the historic Arlington Street Church.

May 11, 1973, after receiving approval from the Board of Evangelism and World Missions, the Board of Home Missions of the Northeast District approved as missions the groups in Manchester, New Hampshire and Providence, Rhode Island.

June 1, 1973, by consensus action of the Board of Home Missions, the choice of the participants of the Mission in Baltimore, Maryland and the directive of the District Coordinator, it was approved that the Calvary Temple MCC of Maryland Inc. and Amber Enterprises Inc. are the sole and only concern of Rev. James Huff, which enterprises and person for purposes of law are considered unaligned to the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and that there is only one Fellowship entity in Baltimore that being the Metropolitan Community Church Baltimore Mission; and that all other churches, corporations and enterprises not directly or indirectly connected with the Metropolitan Community Church Baltimore Mission and its congregation, are entities existing outside of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; and that Rev. James Huff is removed from the pastorship of any Fellowship entity in Baltimore and that Rev. James Huff is removed from the practice of the ministry in the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; and that Rev. John M. Barbone, Interim Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, is simultaneously appointed Interim Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Baltimore Mission.

July 31, 1973, by consensus action of the Board of Home Missions, the directive of the District Coordinator was approved toward the end that the Metropolitan Community Church Manchester Mission be discontinued until further notice, but that Manchester, New Hampshire be maintained as a target city.

August, 1973, the resignation of Mr. Michael Nordstrom from the office of the Director of Handicapped Ministry in the Northeast District was received and accepted with appreciation of his duty.

The Board of Elders of the University Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches approved the chartering the Mission in Providence, Rhode Island as a Church.

September, 1973, by the request of the congregation of the Metropolitan Community Church of Baltimore Mission, and due to the lack of available ministers, the District Coordinator assumed the pastorship of the Mission pending authorization from the Board of Home Missions on October 20, 1973.

The current Licensed and Ordained Ministers in the Northeast District are listed below:

ORDAINED MINISTERS	LOCATION
BIRCHARD, REV. ROY	METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK
BRETON, REV. J. E. PAUL	DISTRICT COORDINATOR AND METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH BALTIMORE
WELLS, REV. HOWARD	UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK.

LICENSED MINISTERS	LOCATION
BARBONE, JOHN M.	MCC-WASHINGTON
CAZEAULT, ARTHUR	MCC-PROVIDENCE
BERNIER, LAURENCE G.	MCC-BOSTON
KENNEDY, JAMES	MCC-PHILADELPHIA AND NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHRISTIAN ADUCATION COMMITTEE
NEELY, JAY	MCC-PHILADELPHIA
WILSON, NANCY	MCC_BOSTON

LICENSED EXHORTERS	LOCATION
BEERS, JAMES	MCC-NEW YORK
ETZLER, DARRYL	MCC-WASHINGTON
FOSTER, DENNIS	MCC-PHILADELPHIA
MOJICA, JOSE	MCC-NEW YORK
PERRAULT, PENNY	MCC-BOSTON AND SECRETARY/TREASURER OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT OF THE UFMCC
WEATHERLY, A. RICHARD	MCC-WASHINGTON
TURNER, LA PAULA	MCC-WASHINGTON
KELSEY, WILLIAM	MCC-WASHINGTON
RINEAR, CHARLES	MCC-PHILADELPHIA AND PENN STATE STUDY GROUP.

Pellegrino, Belle PROV.

DEACONS	LOCATION
JOHNSON, GARY "SKIP"	MCC-BOSTON
FOSTER, DENNIS	MCC-PHILADELPHIA
SHEPPERLY, C. "BUD"	MCC-PHILADELPHIA

Dusseault, Gail - PROV.

LAY WORSHIP COORDINATORS	LOCATION
DEACON, F. JAY	HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD

Rinear, Charles Penn St.

MINISTERS DISCIPLINED	LOCATION
HUFF, JAMES	MCC-BALTIMORE

NO LONGER LIC. EXH.

The following is the most current and up to date listing of the churches, missions, study groups and feasibility studies in the Northeast District along with mailing addresses, worship locations, clergy and telephones:

CHURCH AND MAILING ADDRESS	WORSHIPPING ADDRESS AND TIME	CLERGY
Metropolitan Community Church Baltimore Mission Post Office Box 1145 Baltimore, Maryland 21203 Tel.: None	St. John's United Methodist 2700 St. Paul Street Baltimore, Maryland Chapel 7:30 P.M.	Rev. J. E. Paul Breton Ordained Minister 705 - 7th Street, S. E. Washington, D. C. 20003 Tel.: None
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston 419 Boylston Street, Room 408 Boston, Massachusetts 02116 Tel.: (617) 266-7491	Old West United Methodist 131 Cambridge Street Boston, Massachusetts Main Sanctuary 7:00 P. M.	Rev. Laurence G. Bernier Licensed Minister, Pastor 4 Moody Street, # 3 Dorchester, Mass. 02124 Tel.: (617) 266-3230
MCC-Boston		Rev. Nancy Wilson Licensed Minister, Associate Pastor
MCC-Boston		Ms. Penny Perrault Licensed Exhorter Office Manager
MCC-Boston		Mr. Gary JOhnson Ordained Deacon Prison Ministry
Metropolitan Community Church Hartford Study Group c/o Mr. Ken Bland 183 Sigourney Street Hartford, Connecticut Tel.: None	Unknown	Mr. F. Jay Deacon Worship Coordinator
Metropolitan Community Church of New York 360 West 28th Street New York, New York 10001 Tel.: (212) 369-8513	Holy Apostles Episcopal 360 West 28th Street New York, New York 10001 Main Sanctuary 7:30 P. M.	Rev. Roy Birchard Ordained Minister, P Pastor Rev. Howard Wells Ordained Minister Assistant Minister
MCC-New York		Mr. James Beers Licensed Exhorter
MCC-New York		Mr. Jose Mojica Licensed Exhorter
Metropolitan Community Church Penn State Study Group c/o Mr. Charles Rinear 231 McKee Hall University Park, Pennsylvania 16802	Eisenhower Chapel Penn State University Campus University Park, Pennsylvania	Mr. Charles Rinear Licensed Exhorter Worship Coordinator

CHURCH AND MAILING ADDRESS	WORSHIPPING ADDRESS AND TIME	CLERGY
Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia Post Office Box 8174 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101 Tel.: (215) 487-2136	First Unitarian Church 2125 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Main Sanctuary 8:00 P. M.	Rev. Jay Neely, Pastor Licensed Minister
MCC-Philadelphia		Mr. Dennis Foster Ordained Deacon Licensed Exhorter
MCC-Philadelphia		Mr. C. Bud Shepperly Ordained Deacon
		Mr. Charles Rinear Licensed Exhorter
Metropolitan Community Church of Providence 290 Westminster Street Providence, Rhode Island 02901 Tel.: (401) 831-3773	410 Waterman Ave E. Prov. 434-0668	Rev. Arthur Cazeault Licensed Minister Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church of Washington Post Office Box 40551 Washington, D. C. 20016 Tel.: (703) 528-3783	First Congregational United Church of Christ 10th and G Streets, N. W. Washington, D. C. Chapel 3:00 P. M.	Rev. John M. Barbone Licensed Minister Pastor
		Mr. Darryl Etzler Licensed Exhorter
MCC-Washington		Mr. A. Richard Weatherly Licensed Exhorter
MCc-Washington		Ms. La Paula Turner Licensed Exhorter
MCC-Washington		Mr. William Kelsey Licensed Exhorter

All other reports are attached as addenda.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Paul Breton

REV. J. E. PAUL BRETON
DISTRICT COORDINATOR

MS. PENNY PERRAULT
DISTRICT SECRETARY/TREASURER

Rev. J. E. Paul Breton
705 - 7th Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

October 20, 1973

Ministers, Delegates, Congregations
Fourth District Conference of
Northeast District of
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

RE: ADDENDUM TO TREASURER'S REPORT

Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings in the name of Christ.

You have heard the Treasurer's Report for the past year of operation of the District. This report is very accurate in regard to the actual funds received and disbursed. However, it is not accurate as to what it really cost to operate the District in the past year.

I have here a rough outline of personal expenses on my part toward the operation of the District. These expenses were submitted into consumable items, such as office supplies of some types, transportation, etc..., and into capital expenses, such as a typewriter. The consumable items neededto be obtained. The capital items perhaps did not need to be obtained but assisted greatly in the operation of the District. I submit this rough draft of expenses, which even here do not cover all the personal expenses on my part, for you to add on to the treasurer's report in order to obtain a better and truer idea of what is an operating budget for the District. This report also does not contain expenses on the part of many other people for various things.

Office Supplies, both consumable and capital	$120.40
Telephone Expenses, less $5.00 per month since May, 1973	$284.70
Printing	$ 68.00
Typewriter, capital expense	$690.00
Travel expenses, exclusive of those paid by churches	$284.65
Postage	$208.00
TOTAL	$1,655.75

Please consider that personal expenditures of this sort cannot always be made. The District will have to eventually meet an operating budget. This gives us a better and truer idea of how much it cost to operate the District over the past year.

Requesting your prayers, I remain

your brother in Christ,

Paul Breton

REV. J. E. PAUL BRETON

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FOURTH CONFERENCE

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

OCTOBER 20, 1973

INTRODUCTION

Respective of the Government of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, we refer to Article V, Paragraph A, Section 4 of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, which states:

> "Geographical districts and district conferences, as defined by these By-Laws, are for the sole purposes of Christian fellowship, mutual cooperation and other objectives as set forth in these by-laws."

Respective of the Conferences of the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, we refer to the Statement of Puprose of the Northeast District as adopted at the First District Conference on November 11, 1972 which states:

> "We, the representatives of the Metropolitan Community Church congregations in the northeastern district do hereby declare the purpose of organization to be that of:
>
> 1. optimizing our congregations' ability to spread the Good News by having access to the combined talents and resources of all member congregations; and
> 2. fostering a sense of fellowship among the member congregations."

Lic/ORD - min.

Rev. Barbara - 1 YR - Renewable

ELECTION OF A DISTRICT COORDINATOR AND DETERMINATION OF THE SPECIFIED TERM OF OFFICE

In accordance with Article V, Paragraph C, Section 1, a new District Coordinator must be elected, and the conference will determine the standing term of office for the office of District Coordinator.

ELECTION OF OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS AND DETERMINATION OF THEIR SPECIFIED TERMS OF OFFICE

In accordance with Article V, Paragraph C, Section 2, new District Officers must be elected, and the conference will determine the standing term of office for these District Offices.

Sec — 1 YR — DARRYL

TREAS — 1 YR — Ron Penny

Reference is made to Article V, Paragraph C, Sections 4 and 5 of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

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Upon the direction of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, in recognition of policy developments of the Conferences of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, in the spirit of mutual cooperation and fellowship, and for the purpose of spreading the Good News through a combination of all our resources, the following proposals are submitted to be adopeted by this conference as Advisory procedures and guidelines for all entities of the Northeast District and morally persuasive for adeherence in a spirit of comity and cooperation.

ADVISORY ONLY

PROPOSALS SUBS. 3 MTGS. TO BY B. of M. MISSIONS 4556

CHAPTER I:

ADVISORY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

I. DISTRICT CONFERENCES: In accordance with Article IX, Paragraph B of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the following is recommended:

A. BUSINESS CONFERENCES: Conferences for the conducting of business appropriate to the Northeast Disrict of the Universsal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches shall be conducted once yearly after General Conference of the Universal Fellowship at a date to be determined (1.) by the previous Conference, (2.) by the Board of Home Missions, (3.) by pre-establishment as the third weekend of October, or (4.) by other means.

B. OTHER CONFERENCES: Conferences for the purpose of education, instruction, retreat, spiritual enlightenment and fellowship shall be conducted once yearly before General Conference of the Universal Fellowship at a date to be determined (1.) by the previous Conference, (2.) By the Board of Home Missions, (3.) by pre-establihsment as the last weekend of May, (4.) or by other means.

C. WORKSHOPS: Workshops for various groups for cooperation and instruction shall be conducted each once yearly between business conferences at a date to be determined (1.) by the previous Conference, (2.) by the Board of Home Missions, (3.) by other means, (4.) or by pre-established dates as follows:

1. LAY CLERGY WORKSHOP: (Deacons and Exhorters) last weekend of November
2. LAY CHURCH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: (Directors, Chairpersons, other leaders) third weekend of February.

3. EVANGELISM WORKSHOP: last weekend of April
4. GAY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: First weekend of June
5. GENERAL WORKSHOP AND PICNIC: the weekend closest to the holiday of Independence (july 4).

II. BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS: In accordance with Article V, Paragraph C, Section 2, the following is recommended:

A. The District Coordinator is the Moderator and ex-officio member of the District Board of Home Missions.

B. The Board of Home Missions shlall meet regularly between business conferences of the Northeast District.

C. The Board of Home Missions shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the legal, property, material, physical and spiritual affairs of the District and of the Missions, Study Groups, Feasibility Projects and Special Ministries of the District. The Board of Home Missions shall have the responsibility of authorizing the collection and distribution of funds. The Board of Home Missions shall serve as an Office Committee in the event of any vacancy of a District office, and shall choose a qulaified candidate to fill the ofice until the next regularly scheduled business conference.

D. The Board of Home Missions shall also approve and disapprove all appointments of the District Coordinator to the various Missions, Study Groups, Feasibility Projects and Special Ministries.

E. District Missions, Study Groups, Feasibility Projects and Special Ministries must be called into existenc by either the District Conference or the Board of Home Missions. These groups are responsible to and operate under the direction of the Board of Home Missions and are accountable to the District Conference.

F. The Board of Home Missionas shall also review all candidates from the District for the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and approve or disapprove their petitions for Licensed or Ordained Ministry. ~~The decision of the Board of Home Missions shall be considered~~ as binding upon the District Coordinator in his/her duty to submit approval or disapproval for candidates for the Ministerial Afairs and Credentials Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

III. ~~RITES OF THE CHURCH~~: In accordance with Article III of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the following is recommended:

A. CONFIRMATION AND/OR CHRISMATION: The rite of Confirmation or Chrismation shall be administered at the discretion of the local pastor upon those adult persons who wish to confirm the strengthening or renewal of their faith. After completing classes for instruction in the beliefs and doctrines of the Churhc, Confirmation or Chrismation may be received by baptized Christians at their request. Confirmation or Chrismation shall be administered by a Licensed or Ordained Minister of the Universal Fellowship. (Refer to Paragraph B, Section I of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship.)

B. RITE OF ATTAINING MEMBERSHIP: (Refer to Paragraph C, Section 2 of the By-Laws) The Board of Home Missions shall make a study on the possibility of establishing uniform guidelines in the District for the education and preparation of communicants.

C. HOLY UNION/HOLY MATRIMONY: (Refer to Paragraph C, Section 3 of the By-Laws.) The Board of Home Missions shall make a study on the possibility of establishing uniform guidelines in the District for the education and preparation of persons entering Holy Union, Holy Matrimony and the dissolution thereof.

IV. PROFESSIONAL MINISTERS, LAY MINISTERS, MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS: In accordance with Article IV, the following is recommended:

A. LICENSED MINISTERS: (Refer to Paragraph A, Section 1, subsections a and b.)

1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSED MINISTERS: To be considered for the status of Licensed Minister a candidate should have completed four years of college or the equivalent thereof. (E. g., college courses credited but degree not obtained; college courses audited, with certification; college-level training and instruction which can be proven by affidavits; two years of continuous service in one chartered church comparing to one year of college.)

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED MINISTERS: To be licensed a minister or have a license renewed, the candidate must have been active for at least one full year as a Licensed Exhorter in a church. The letter of the District Coordinator to the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches shall indicate the decision of the Board of Home Missions, which shall act as a local "Advisory" Credentials Committee and shall personally interview all candidates for the status of Licensed Minister from the Northeast District. Once the license is granted, it shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Home Missions.

B. ORDAINED MINISTERS: (Refer to Paragraph A, Section 2, subsections a and b.)

1. QUALIFICATIONS OFR ORDAINED MINISTERS: To be considered for the status of Ordained Minister, a candidate should have completed three years of postgraduate theological studies or the equivalent thereof. (E. g., theological courses credited, but degree not obtained; theological courses audited, with certification; theological training and instruction which can be proven by affidavits, two years of service as a Licensed Minister comparing to one year of theological studies.)

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDAINED MINISTERS: To be considered for ordination or to have the ordination reaffirmed, the District Coordinator shall submit to the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches a letter which shall bear the decision of the Board of Home Missions, which shall act as a local "Advisory" Credentials Committee and shall personally interview all candidates for the Ordained Ministry from the Northeast District. Once the ordination is granted, it shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Home Missions.

C. MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS: (Refer to Paragraph B of the By-Laws.)

1. Ministers from other denominations who wish to enter the ministry of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches shall serve for no less than six (6) months in a Church under the supervision of the locla pastor and in the status of "guest minister".

2. Ministers from other denominations shall submit their credentials, transcripts, resumes, and appropriate references, or copies thereof, to the local pastor, who shall forward these to the District Coordinator.
   a. It is incumbent upon the District Coordinator to thoroughly investigate and record these credentials.

3. After the investigation is completed, ministers from other denominations shall follow those requirements listed in Article IV, Paragraph A, Section 1 of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, except they shall be personally interviewed by the Board of Home Missions, which shall direct the District Coordinator as to what recommendation to make to the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee.

4. Ministers from other denominations who have served in the capacity of Licensed Minister for one full year shall be personally interviewed by the Board of Home Missions whoch shall direct the District Coordinator to recommend "transfer of ordination", if appropriate, to the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. All other requirements as outlined in Article V, Paragraph A, Section 2 of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches must be followed.

D. EXHORTERS AND DEACONS: In accordance with Article IV, Paragraph C, the following advisory guidelines are recommended:

1. Candidates for the position of Deacon shall have been active and involved members of their congregations for at least six (6) consecutive months, and shall have entered, in addition, another six (6) months of training, before being appointed as Deacons.

[illegible]

2. Candidates for the Position of Exhorter shall have been active and involved members of their congregations for at least six (6) consecutive months, and shall have entered, in addition, another six (6) months of training before being appointed as Exhorters. Candidates for Exhorter should be graduates of High School.

3. WORSHIP COORDINATORS: When applicable, an Exhorter who is assigned to a Church, Mission, Study Group or Feasibility Project as Worship Coordinator shall have been an Exhorter for at least one full year and shall, in the case of Missions, Study Groups and Feasibility Projects, work completely under the supervision of the Board of Home Missions and the District Coordinator.

4. Exhorters who are Worship Coordinators of Missions, Study Groups or Feasibility Projects may perform all duties as listed for Deacons, upon

the approval and recommendation of the Board of Home Missions. At the discretion of the Board of Home Missions, Exhorters who act as Worship Coordinators of Missions, Study Groups and Feasibility Projects may perform other duties ~~xixthe~~ within the area of Christian service.

V. DISTRICT BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIAL MINISTRIES: In accordance with Article V, Paragraph B, Section 2, the following is recommended:

A. The following must be standing Boards of this District: the District Board of Home Missions, and the District Board of Christian Education ~~and Evangelism~~.

All other District boards, commissions, committees, instiutions and special ministries must be called into existence by either the Board of Home Missions or the District Conference. These groups are responsible to and operate under the direction of the Boardof Home Missions and therefore are also accountable to the District Conference.

B. DISTRICT BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~~AND EVANGELISM~~: The Board of Christian Education ~~and Evangelism~~ shall be comprised of all the Assistant and Associate Pastors of all Churches within the District. + AT LEAST 1 PERSON FROM EACH Congregation to be appointed by Pastor & Relet

1. COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~~AND EVANGELISM~~: The District Board of Christian Education ~~and Evangelism~~ may appoint a subordinate council composed of laity and clergy to assist in the function of this Board. FROM WITHIN the Universal Fellowship

2. FUNCTION: The Board of Christian Education ~~and Evangelism~~ shall have th following responsibilities:
   a. To determine the educational, instructional, training ~~and evangelistic~~ needs of the District.
   b. To produce, obtain. establish a library and distribution center of educational, instructional, training and evangelistic materials and resources.
   c. To seek out and provide a listing of credited and unaccredited postgraduate and undergraduate theological, religious, biblical institutions, institutes and organizations located within the District but not part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches which would knowledgeably be amenable to the education, instruction and training of clergy candidates, clergy and laity of the District churches, missions, study groups and feasibility projects.

   d. To seek out and provide a listeing of credentialed clergy and professional laity both within and outside of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches who can and would be willing to provide pastoral, theological, scriptural, religious, spiritual and psychological counseling and training to clergy and clergy candidates of the District.

   e. To establish and maintain institutions, institutes and training centers or extension thereof to meet the educational, instructional and training needs of the clergy and clergy candidates of the District.

   f. To seek out, provide, establish and maintain a program of retreats for the clergy and laity of the District.

g. To establish, develop and and maintain as well as distribute multimedia evangelistic materials for the common usage of all entities within the District.

3. DUTY: It shall be the duty of the Board of Christian Education ~~and Evangelism~~ to submit all materials, resources and actions to the Board of Home Missions and to make quarterly reports to the District Board of Home MIssions, Samaritan Bible Seminary, and the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

VI: APPROVAL OF CHURCH BODIES: In accordance with Article VI of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the following is recommended:

To become affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches through the Northeast District, the following additional advisory procedures are set forth:

A. FEASIBILITY PROJECT: If individuals in a locale are interested in the possibility of seeing a Metropolitan Community Church established in that locale, they are to contact or be placed in contact with the District Coordinator. The District Cooordinator and the pastor of the nearest church, after proper communication has been established, shall visit these individuals in that locale and make a preliminary study of the potential of that locale. Upon doing this, the District will then send a Minister, Exhorter or trustworthy layperson to live in and begin the necessary fundamentals to establish a Metropolitan Community Church Study Group in that locale. The Feasibility Project must be continued for no less than one month at the end of which, the minister, Exhorter or lay person performing that study will make a full report in writing to the Board of Home Missions for that group to be approved as a Study Group.

B. STUDY GROUPS: For a Feasibility Project to be recognized as a Study Group, at least a Licensed Exhorter must be available to act as Worship Coordinator of the Study Group. Also, the Study Groups must be able to provide housing and a salary of no less than $10.00 per week to the Licesned Exhorter.

C. MISSIONS: To be recognized as a Mission, in accordance with Article VI, Paragraph B, the group must certify that it is able to provide ~~for~~ no less than $25.00 per week salary and housing for a Worship Coordinator or Interim Pastor; at least a Licesned Exhorter must be available to act as Worship Coordinator for that Mission; and the Mission will not be recognized in this District until the decision of the Board of Elders is obtained in writing through the District Coordinator or until such group is approved as a Mission at General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

D. CHURCHES: To be recognized as a church in accordance with Article VI, Paragrah C, the Mission must certify that it is able to provide a salary of no less than $50.00 per week and housing for a pastor; a Licesned or Ordained Minister must be available to pastor the church; and the church will not be recognized in this District until the decision of the Board of Elders is obtained in writing through the District Coordinator or until such Mission is approved as a Church at ~~XXXXXX~~ General Conference.

E. EXTENDED PARISHES: If a group of individuals is interested in associating with

A local church, and that group is in a community within a reasonable traveling distance of a local church (50 miles or less), that group may be administered under the parochial supervision of the church and be considered an extended parish of the church.

1. ADMINISTRATOR: The Parish Administrator is that lay person, lay minister or professional minister who resides in the community of the extended parish and is appointed by the pastor of the church. The administrator is responsible to the Pastor and the Board of Directors of the church. The person filling this position must be at least an active member in good standing of the church and shall hold this position for a term determined by the pastor. The Parish Administrator upon the approval of the pastor, shall have the authority to locate and obtain facilities for wk worship and administration, and to provide for the worship, education, instruction, training, evangelism and social life of the parish. The administrator shall act as moderator of all parish meetings, in the absence of the Pastor. He/she may participate as an ex-officio member in the activities of any or all of the councils, committees and organizations within the parish. The pastor shall act as moderator of all parish business meetings. Associate or Assistant Parish Administrators and other personnel shall be appointed by the Pastor upon the advice of the Parish Administrator, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

   Parish Administrators may be removed from office for good and sufficient reason upon the direction of the Pastor and Board of Directors. If a Parish Administrator is removed, he/she has the right to call and appeal to the congregation at specially called meetings. If a special meeting is called to act upon the removal of an administrator, the pastor and Board of Directors must attend said meeting.

2. CLERK: The Parish Clerk is that lay person, lay minister or professional minister who resides in the community of the extended parish and is appointed by the Pastor. The Parish Clerk is responsible to the Pastor and the Board of Directors. The person filling this position must be at least an active meber in good standing of the church and shall hold this position for a term determined by the Pastor. The Parish Clerk shall have the responsibility to record the minutes of all business meetings and maintain the records of the Parish.

3. TREASURER: The Parish Treasurer is that lay person, lay minister, or professional minister who resides in the community of the extended parish and is appointed by the Pastor. The Parish Treasurer is responsible to the Pastor and the Board of Directors of the Church. The person filling in this position must be at least an active member in good standing of the church and shall hold this position for a term determined by the Pastor. The Parish Treasurer shall have the responsibility to maintain the financial records of the parish and submit monthly reports in writing to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility of periodically auditing the financial records of the parish.

4. PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD: The Parish Administrative Board consists o of the Parish Administrator, Parish Clerk and Parish Treasurer. The Parish Administrative Board shall have charge of lall matters pertaining to the finances and physcial affairs of the parish, subject to the approval of the Pastor and Board of Directors. This Board shall have the responsibility of collecting and disbursing funds, subject to the approval of the Pastor and the Board of Directors.

5. PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council consists of the active members of the church who reside in that particular parish. The Council shall act as a congregational body providing advise and counsel to the Administrator and the Pastor for the administration of the Parish.

6. CHURCH SERVICES: The Extended Parish shall hold a service of public worship every Sunday. Other worship services may be held as determined by the Pastor with the approval of the Board of Directors. As much as possible the Sacrament of Holy Communion shall be offered each Sunday, as well as at other services, at the discretion of the Pastor.

7. STIPEND: The extended parish must provide a stipend to the minister to at least cover traveling expenses, one meal and $5.00.

8. AFFILIATION: After one full year, the extended parish may apply to become a church in accordance with the provisions of the General Conference, By-Laws and Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and the District Conference, Advisory Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines, and the Board of Home Missions of the District.

VII. MEMBERSHIP: In accordance with Article VII of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the following is recommended:

A. The Board of Home Missions shall on a quarterly basis obtain and make record of the active membership of each church, plus the average attendance during a calendar quarter of each mission, sutudy group and feasibility project. The Board of Home Missions may authorize the District Coordinator to audit the books and records, including membership, of each church, mission, study group, and feasibility project in the District.

VIII. DISTRICT FINANCES: In accordance with Article X of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the following is recommended:

A. At every Conference, Workshop or Special Meeting of the District, an offering shall be received for the District.

B. Each Study Group, Mission and Church will on a monthly basis contribute 5% (other missions fund) of its general offerings to the District for the expenses of the District.
   1. MINIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS: A minimum amount each month will be provided to the District. It is hoped the same minimum will also be contributed to the Fellowship:
      a. STUDY GROUPS: Study Groups will provide 5% or no less than $5.00 per month of general offerings to the support of the District.
      b. MISSIONS: Missions will provide 5% or no less than $10.00 per month of general offerings to the support of the District.
      c. CHURCHES: Churches will provide 5% or no less than $25.00 per month of general offerings to the support of the District.

C. One month per year shall be set aside for special fund-raising efforts for the District, including special fund-raising efforts originating from the District offices.

D. A District-wide supportive organization of laity called "Fellowship Laity" or "Metropolitan Laypeople" shal- be formed for the specific purpose of financial support of the District. The organization shall consist of active members in good standing of the churches in the District, The organization will re-

QUIRE an annual membership fee of $200.00 per person. The membership fees paid will be placed completely at the disposal of the District. The prototype of this organization is the "Lutheran Laymen's League".

E. Once special ministries are formed, it shall be incumbent upon the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism to locate and obtain grants, subsidies, and outright large monetary gifts for these specila ministries.

F. The Board of Home Missions is instructed to look into professional fund-raising organizations, determine the feasibility of engaging such organizations, and making a full report with recommendations to the next business Conference of the Northeast District.

G. Each Church shall a special fund-raising to make up a special kit to be used for starting a study group. This kit shall consist of one black suitcase, one altar cross, two altar candlesticks, one intincture-type of communion ware, one Bible, one copy of the "Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay" hard-bound, one copy of the same book in paperback, three copies of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, three copies of the District Advisory Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines, one white and purple reversible stole, one MCC cross, one pulpit robe. These special kits shall be donated to the person beginning a Study Group with the stipulation that once that group is chartered, it shall, within one year's time, make up and provide a similar type of kit for a new Study Group at that time.

H. The District will on a monthly basis contribute 5% of all monies received in that month to Samaritan Bible Seminary. The District will on a monthly basis contribute 5% of all monies received in that month to the Board of Evangelism and World Missions of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

I. The Board of Home Missions will authorize distribution of funds as the needs arise and as the monies are available.

J. At the end of each fiscal year, all except $100.00 remaining in the operating account of the District shall be placed in a savings account to be used at the discretion of the Board of Home MIssions for the payment of salaries, scholarships, educational loans, purchase of property and emergencies.

K. One Sunday in January of each year shall be set aside in every church, mission, and study group to raise funds toward payment of salaries for Fellowship and District o-ficers, ministers and employees. (E. g., Troy Perry.) The funds raised shall be made payable to the District, which in turn shall forward half these funds to the Board of Elders with the specific notation that these funs be used solely for the payment of salaries. The District will place half these funds raised in a separate checking account and use these to provide salaries ,for the District Coordinator and other District officers and staff as required. The District will al-o use these funds to provide supplemental salaries to Pastors and Worship Coordinators of churches, missions, study groups, feasibility projects and special ministries.

L. Upon the visit of an elder to the churches, missions and study groups of the District, stipends shall be provided in the following guise:
   1. Churches will provide a stipend of $50.00.
   2. Missions will provide a stipend of $25.00.
   3. Study Groups will provide a stipend of $10.00.

M. Upon the visit of the District Coordinator to the churches, missions, study groups and feasibility projects of the District, transportation costs and stipends shall be provided the District Coordinator as follows:

1. Churches will forward no less than one week ahead of time to the District Treasurer the exact amount of a round-trip Amtrak train ticket from the location of the District Coordinator to the location of the Church. Also, churches will provide a stipend of $25.00 to the District Coordinator.

2. Missions will forward no less than one week ahead of time to the District Treasurer the exact amount of a round-trip Amtrak train ticket from the location of the District Coordinator to the location of the church. Also, Missions will provide a stipend of $10.00 to the District Coordinator.

3. For visits to Study Groups, the District Treasurer will request no less than 30 days before the scheduled visit that each church provide on an equal basis toward the cost of a round-trip Amtrak train ticekt from the location of the District Coordinator to the location of the Study Group. Also, Study Groups will provide a stipend of $5.00 to the District coordinator.

4. For visits to Feasibility Projects, the District Treasurer will request that each church and mission provide on an equal basis toward the cost of a round trip Amtrak train ticket from the location of the District Coordinator to the location of the Feasibility Project.

N. GERNERAL, MINISTERS AND DISTRICT CONFERENCES: TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES:

L. 1. For General and Ministers Conferences, the District shall in a manner submitted by the Board of Home Missions, provide the full cost of commercial air transportation for the District Coordinator, unless the District Coordinator is also pastoring a church or mission. When the District Coordinator is pastoring a church or mission, the District shall provide one half the cost of commercial air transportation.

2. For District Conferences, the District shall an a manner submitted by the Board of Home Missions provide the cost of a round-trip Amtrak ticket for the District Coordinator, District Secretary and District Treasurer, unless one or more of these officers is also pastoring or holding office in a church or mission. When a District officer is pastoring or holding an office in a church or mission, the District shall provide one half the cost of a round-trip Amtrak ticket.

O. TELEPHONE AND POSTAGE: Until a more permanent arrangement can be made, the District will provide for the cost of installation and maintenance of a telephone with the District Coordinator.

1. All long distance calls to the Board of Elders shall be paid by the District.
2. All long distance calls to the churches shall be made collect, unless otherwise specified.
3. All long distance calls to the missions, study groups and feasibility projects shall be paid by the District.
4. The District will not be responsible for personal telephone calls made on the District telephone.

5. The District will provide no less than $10.00 per month to the District Coordinator for postage.
6. The District will obtain and maintain a Post Office Box.

P. All other operational expenses of the District must be authorized by the Board of Home Missions.

Q. The Board of Home MIssions is recommended to open its own account and provide its own fund-raising in order to meet expenses of the Board of Home Missions which the District cannot meet. (Suggestion: it has been suggested that each church provide $5.00 extra salary per month to the pastor for the pastor to deposit in the account for the Board of Home Missions.)

R. The Board of Christian Education and Evangelism is recommended to open its own account and provide its own fund-raising in order to meet expenses the District cannot meet. (Suggestion: it has been suggested that each church provide $4.00 extra salary per month to the Assistant or Associate Pastor for the Assistant or Associate Pastor to deposit in the account of this Board. It has also been suggested that members of the subordinate Council provide $3.00 per member per month to the account of this Board. It has been suggested that materials produced by this Board be sold at sufficient profit to defray the cost of o-peartions of this Board.)

IX. These Advisory Standard Operatitng Procedures and Guidelines may be amended or repealed at any duly convened meeting of the District. Such amendments or repeals can ohly be effective if two thirds of the duly authorized lay and clergy delegates attending vote in favor of such amendments or repeals. These Advisory Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Northeast District and shall become morally persuasive upon all members and organized church bodies within the District. These Advisory Standard Operating Procedures are subject to the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, General Conference and Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

CHAPTER II:

ADVISORY COMMITTEES, ACTIONS AND EXPERIMENTATIONS

I. DISTRICT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

A. It is recommended that the Board of Home Missions act and operate on the level of the Northeast District as an Advisory Credentails and Affairs Committee.

B. FUNCTION: It is the responsibility of the Board of Home Missions to interview all candidates for the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is the responsibility of the Board of Home Missions to enforce within the District the actions of the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is the responsibility of the Board of Home Missions to make recommendations to the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and to study and submit proposed changes regarding the ministry for the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is the responsibility of the Board of Home Missions to study and authorize applicable standards and operational levels for the ministry of the Northeast District.

C. DUTY: It is the duty of the Board of Home Missions to instruct the District Coordinator about the recommendations of the Board of Home Missions toward the candidacy of each individual for the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is the duty of the District Coordinator to abide by and properly enforce the decision of the Board of Home Missions. It is the duty of the Board of Home Missions to submit complete reports in the field of miniseterial credentials to all entitites within the District, to the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee, the National By-Laws Committee, Samaritan Bible Seminary and the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches once yearly.

D. CONSIDERATIONS: When and if applicable, after due study, meditation and prayer, the Board of Home Missions may judiciously waive, in individual circumstances, those Advisory Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines of the Northeast District respective of the ministry. The exercise of these waivers must always be considered as exception and not rule, and must always be exercised on an individual basis and with extreme care.

II. DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND ORDER:

A. It is recommended that the Board of Home Missions act and operate on the level of the Northeast District as an Advisory Committee on Faith, Fellowship and Order.

B. FUNCTION: It is the responsibility of the Board of Home Missions, with the consultative advise an- cooperation of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism to constatnly review all matters of Faith, Fellowship and Order. It is the responsibility of the Board of Home MIssions to enforce within the District the preaching and teaching of the doctrine of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is the responsibility of the Board

OF Home Missions to very carefully and thoroughly study and submit proposed changes regarding FAith, Fellowship and Order to the Commission of Faith, Fellowship and Order of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is the responsibility of the Board of Home Missions to very carefully and thoroughly study, authorize and disseminate appropriate interpretations of the Doctrine of the Universal Felowship of Metropolitan Commun-- ty Churches throughout the Northeast District.

C. DUTY: It is the duty of the Board of HOme Missions, with the consultative advice and cooperation of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism, to make certain that in this District no minister shall preach or teach as doctrine that which is not doctrine of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is the duty of the Board of Home Missions to make certain that in this District no minister shall publicly and acting as a minister of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches ridicule or disparage the doctrines, teachings, and worship practices of any other denomination, religion, creed or religious philosophy. It is the duty of the Board of HOme Missions to make certain that the doctrine of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is taught and preached and that such doctrine is taught and preached properly throughout the District. Finally, because the church must be constantly in reform, it is the duty of the Board of Home Missions to actively seek out, study and after meditation and prayer carefully make public through the Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches new and/or better interpretations and applications of all matters within the realm of Faith, Fellowship and Order.

D. CONSIDERATIONS: When and if applicable, after due study, meditation and prayer, the Board of Home Missions may judicisouly consider any minister for disciplinary action in the light of that minister's particular attitude and active and recorded response toward the teaching and preaching of the doctrine of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The exercise of disciplinary action must always be considered as exception and not rule, and must alway- be exercised on an individual basis and with extreme care.

III. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:

A. It is recommended that the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism act and operate in the Northeast District as a Publications Committee.

B. FUNCTION: It is the responsibility of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism to publish and distribute any and all materials and periodicals authorized by the District Conference or necessary for Christian Education and Evangelism. It is the responsibility of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism to supervise and administer all publications of the Northeast District.

C. DUTY: It is the duty of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism to obtain the approval of the Board of Home Missions for the publication and distribution of any and all materials and periodicals authorized by the District Conference or necessary for Christian education and evangelism.

D. CONSIDERATIONS: The District Treasury will be available for the support of the District Board of Christian Eduaction and Evangelism only for those materials and peridocals which have been expressly approved by the Board of Home

Missions.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE GAY CHRISTIAN

The Gay Christian has been approved by the Northeast District as the official periodical of the Northeast District. Up until the present, this periodical has been virtually the sole product of Rev. Roy Birchard, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of New York.This periodical has been financially supported for the most part by the Metropolitan Community Church of New York. If this is to be truly the official publication of the Northeast District, it is felt that the District at this point should assume greater responsibility for this periodical, and remove some of the financial burden from Metropolitan Community Church of New York. Also, it is felt that it is time to establish an aggressive effort toward t making this periodical not only self-supporting but also capable of fincancial remuneration and compensation for its staff. With this in mind, and with the due consideration and advice of Rev. Roy Birchard, the following is recommended:

(I.) PUBLICATION

(A.) The Board of Christian Education and Evangelism shall have full responsibility for the publication of the Gay Christian.

(1.) It is recommended that as of January 1, 1974, The Gay Christian be published on a regular quarterly basis during the calendar year, with necessary deadlines preestablished by the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism.

(2.) It is recommended that as of January 1, 1974, Rev. Roy Birchard be retained for a term determined by himself as Chief Editor of The Gay Christian and that he be given full authority to determine content, layout, contributors and staff of the Gay Christian.

(a.) It is also recommended that Mr. Jay Deacon, who has had experience in journalism, be assigned, with Rev. Birchard's approval, to the staff of the Gay Christian.

(3.) It is recommended that as of January 1, 1974, each member of the Board of Christian Education and Evagelism and the Council on Christian Education and Evangelism act as the local agent in his/her church for all affairs regarding the Gay Christian within that church, and also that each should act as a local editor and submit material to Rev. Birchard for publication.

(II.) DISTRIBUTION

(A.) The Board of Christian Education and Evangelism shall have the full responsibility for the distribution of the Gay Christian.

(1.) It is recommended that the mailing address of The Gay Christian be made the same as the mailing address of the Northeast District.

(2.) For distribution outside of the Northeast District, it is recommended that one member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism be responsible for maintaining the subscription and mailing list and distributing the Gay Christian via first class U. S. Mail.

(3.) For distribution within the Northeast District, it is recommended that each member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism be responsible for the following:

(a.) From New York, all copies of the Gay Christian will be hand carried to a pre-established MCC entity in each state by appointed members of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism who have valid drivers licenses and automobiles.

(b. Each pre-established MCC entity shall be responsible through the local member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism to distribute all copies within that state.

(c.) Each MCC entity shall be responsible through the local member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism to maintain the subscription and mailing lists of The Gay Christian within that state or that section of the state served by the MCC entity.

(d.) Each local member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism shall actively locate bookstores, educational institutions and other locales where The Gay Christian can be sold by consingment or otherwise.

(e.) Each local member of the Board of Chrisitan Education and Evangelism shall actively locate those persons who would benefit by The Gay Christian but are unable to purchase the same and see to it that the local church donate copies to these individuals. (E. g. persons receiving Publica Assistance, prisoners, people in hospitals, persons living under vows of poverty, or persons living in poverty for religious reasons.)

(III.) FINANCES

(A.) The Northeast District shall be financially responsible for the publication of The Gay Christian.

(1.) It shall be the duty of the Northeast District to pay the printer the full cost of printing at the time of publication of each issue of The Gay Christian.

(2.) With the exception of subscriptions and consignments, all copies of The Gay Christian shall be paid for upon delivery. The Gay Christian will not be delivered unless payment in full is received.

(a.) Subscriptions outside of the Northeast District shall be the responsibility of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism for collections.

(b.) Subscriptions within the Northeast District shall be the responsibility of the local MCC entity for collection.

(c.) Consignments outside of the Northeast District shall be the responsiblity of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism for collections.

(((1.)) Agencies which sell The Gay Christian on consignment shal pay at the end of a calendar quarter only for those copies which were sold. All unsold copies will be returned to the office of the District Coordinator.

(d.) Consignments within the Northeast District shall be the responsibility of the local MCC entity for collections.

((1.)) Agencies which sell The Gay Christian on consignment shall pay at the end of a calendar quarter only for those copies which were sold. All unsold copies will be returned to the local MCC entity. The local MCC entity may return these copies to the District Coordinator, who will then authorize reimbursement to the local church.

(3.) It is recommended that the retial cost of the Gay Christian be raised to $.50 per copy. It is recommended that the wholesale cost to agencies other than MCC entities be raised to $.35 per issue. It is recommended that the wholesale cost to MCC entities be $30 per copy. Subscription costs shall be issued on a yearly basis. For 1974, it is recommended that subscription cost be $2.00 for four (4) issues.

(a.) It is recommended that each member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism pursue a goal of subscription within the locla Metropolitan Community Church of 100% among members.

(b.) It is recommended that each member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism also actively seek out subscriptions outside of the membership of the local Metropolitan Community Church.

(4.) ADVERTISING: The following new advertising arates have been suggested:

INSIDE FRONT COVER		REAR COVER		INSIDE PAGES	
SIZE PAGE	COST	SIZE PAGE	COST	SIZE PAGE	COST
FULL	$200.00	FULL	$150.00	FULL	$100.00
HALF	$140.00	HALF	$105.00	HALF	$ 70.00
QUARTER	$ 80.00	QUARTER	$ 60.00	QUARTER	$ 40.00
EIGHTH	$ 50.00	EIGHTH	$ 35.00	EIGHTH	$ 25.00
SIXTEENTH	$ 30.00	SIXTEENTH	$ 20.00	SIXTEENTH	$ 15.00

(a.) Every member of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism shall have the responsibility of seeking out and obtaining advertising.

(b.) The Board of Christian Education and Evangelism shall have the responsibility of making a study of appropriate agencies, such as in the field of public relations, to establish an efficient means by which advertising may be obtained. This study shall be reported in writing to the next business conference of the District.

(5.) A seaparate account shall be opened in the name of The Gay Christian.

a.) At the choice of Rev. Birchard an accountant and treasurer shall be otbained for The Gay Christian.

(b.) Authorization for disbursement of funds shall be made bt the request of Rev. Birchard and the treasurer of The Gay Christian.

(6.) For the year 1974, Rev. Birchard shall be reimbursed at the rate of $10.00 weekly for his work on The Gay Christian.

(7.) For the year 1974, Mr. Deacon shall be reimbursed at the rate of $5.00 weekly for his work on the Gay Christian, should he be appointed to that staff.

(8.) Persons who provide delivery of The Gay Christian in their private vehicles shall be reimbursed $.10 per mile and $2.00 per diem for their efforts upon receipt of properly completed travel vouchers available from the District.

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IV. ADVISORY BOARD

It has been suggested that an Advisory Board of professionals in various fields (e. g., theology, churchmanship, education, psychology, finance, business, law) be formed from professionals both within and outside of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in the Northeast District.in order to provide,when, where and as needed professional guidance and counseling in the administration of all affairs of the Northeast District and the churches, missions, study groups and feasibility projects in the District.

V. EXPERIMENTS AND STUDIES:

A. THE COVENANT COMMUNITY FO FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARIES

REPORT

The work of the church, evangelism and proselytization is severely hampered throughout the Northeast District and actually throughout the Universal FEllowship of Metropolitan Community Churches because of the shortage of ministers and trained lay personnel. Missionary activity is virtually nonexistent in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and in the Northeast District. Lastly, there are many locales which need to hear the Good News but in which we have no contacts to establish churches. Visible examples are Springfield, Massachusetts. Springfield is an historic

small city on the shores of the Connecticut River. The gay community there is existent but small and has no source of integrity and compassion. Recently a gay bar was bombed. This community needs to hear us. Therefore the following is proposed: A Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries shall be established within the Northeast District on an experimental basis to last no less than three years and nor more than five years.

(I.) CONCEPT: Based on the scriptural admonition to go and sell all, give to the poor, take up the cross and follow after Jesus Christ, an opportunity is here provided for those among us who wish to do something more out of the love of Jesus Christ. From the Mormons we have the practice of sending out missionaries in pairs to convert, to bring people to Jesus Christ. From the western orthodox churches, we have the practice of lay religious and covenant communities which live under a vow, promise or spirit of chastity, poverty and obedience for the performance of a specific duty. From the Methodist Book of Discipline and the practice of Reform Protestant monasteries, we have the practice of establishing terminal covenants for public service to the church. Based on these concepts, then, the fundamental concept of the Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries is as follows:

(A.) Individuals who are high school graduates and at least 18 years of age and are members of the member churches of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches may join with the approval of their pastor and Board of Directors.

(B.) After a period of training and spiritual direction, those individuals who wish to do more for the glory of God shall enter a public Covenant with the church dedicating themselves to religious service for no less than one year and no more than three (3) years.

(C.) The Covenant shall include a dedication to the spirit of poverty, chastity and obedience:

(1.) POVERTY - to serve the Lord without attachment to material wealth and a willingness to share personal wealth with others as the need arises.

(2.) CHASTITY - To serve the Lord in one's sexual and social life in such a manner that the life of the missionary shall not be an example of exploitation and lust, but rather of warmth, love and caring.

(3.) OBEDIENCE - to hu,bly serve the Lord where the church sends the missionary with joy, faith and hope, regardless of the assignment.

(D.) The missionaries shall be sent out in pairs or threesomes. One missionary shall devote his/her full time to the work of the church. The other(s) shall find secular employment to provide for the material needs of the missionaries as community or family unit.

(E.) The missionaries shall serve as follows:

(1.) Communities in which there is no MCC entity.

(2.) In support of Worship Coordinators or Interim Pastors of Study Groups and Missions.

(3.) As requested, in support of pastors of churches.

(4.) In special minitries.

(5.) Where otherwise needed.

(II.) JURISDICATION: Until the end of the term of experimentation, the Board of Home Missions shall have full authority and jurisdiction over the Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries. The Board of Home Missions shall report yearly to the District Conference on the progress or regress of the Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries. If at the end of three calendar years, beginning January 1, 1974, no persons have entered the Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries, the Board of Home Missions shall terminate the experimentation, declare it a failure, and make a full report tothe Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order of the Universal Felloship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Under all other circumstances, at the end of five (5) years the Board of Home Missions shall make a thorough and complete report on the Covenant Community of Fellows-ip Missionaries and submit that report to the Northeast District Conference. At that time, if the experimentation has been proven successful, the Conference shall entertain the motion of recognizing the Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries as an official and standing entity of the Northeast District. After another five (5) years have elapsed, the same procedure shall be followed by t-e Board of Home Missions and the District Conference except that the Conference shall refer the Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries to the Commissio-on Faith Fellowship and Order for consideration as an official and standing entity of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

(III.) INITIATION: Should the experimentation be approved, let it be recommended that

(A.) Publicity be distributed at the expense of the Northeast District to all churches in the Northeast District.

(B.) The Board of Christian Education and Evangelism actively seeks out candidates.

(C.) The first group of candidates shall begin training for a period of no less than six (6) months under the direct and immediate supervision of the District Coordinator no later than January 6, 1974. The second group of candi dates shall begin training under the same conditions no later than July 6, 1974.

(IV.) ADDENDUM: Because a great portion of the concept of the Covenant Community of Fellowship Missionaries is based on the missionary system employed by the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints, and because Elder James Sadd mire was formerly a Mormon, it is suggested that he be contact to provide as much g guidance as possible.

B. ZION FAMILY

It is suggested that the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism study carefully the exercise of the concept of the Zion family as found in Metropolitan Commun-ty Church of San Francisco. A full report with recommendation should be submitted in one year to the District Conference for consideration.

C. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP RECORD FORM

Attached is the Church Membership Record Form utilized by Metropolitan Communit-Church of Washington. The copyright on this form is pending. No other copies are authorized to be made without the expresswed written permission of Rev. Barbone. Additional copies may be ordered from Metropolitan Community Church of Washington. This form is being ~~xxxx~~ submitted for study and experimentation. Each church is requested to submit to the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism written reports on the applicability and viability of this form with appropriate recommendations.for changes or improvements no later than the October of 1974. It is suggested that this form be used for no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) years in experimentation. At the end of five (5) years, the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism will submit a full report in writing to the Board of Home Missions, which, in turn, shall submit to the District Conference appropriate recommendations. At that time, with the approval of the District Conference the form will be used throughout the District for another five (5) years. At the end of this time the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism shall again submit a full report to the Board of Home Missions. The Board of Home Missions will then submit this form with a full report to the Board of Elders of the Universal FEllowship of Metropolitan Community Churches toward the possible end of national usage of this form.

VI. IDENTIFICATION CARDS

A. The Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has Identification Cards available.

B. On the level of the local church these cards can be issued to the pastors and professional and lay clergy as well as the direcotrs and other officers of the local church in the manner the local church deems appropriate.

C. It is recommended that all officers of the District, including all Licensed and Ordained Ministers, Licensed Exhorters serving as Worship Coordinators and lay personnel serving in official poisitions be assigned Identification Cards from the District.

D. It is recommended that Identification Cards iwsued by the District contain the follwosing information:

1. FRONT:

a. Above the words "Metropolitan Community Church of" type in NOrtheast District of UFMCC".

b. Under the words "Metropolitan Community Church of" place the approriate name of the church to which the individual belongs.

c. Type in the name of the individual.

d. Type in the rank of ministry and status of office of the individual

e. Signed by the District Secretary.

2. REAR:

a. Passport size color or black and white photograph.

b. Date of Birth

c. Place of Birth

d. Height

e. Weight

f. Color Hair

g. Color eyes

h. Signature of the bearer

i. Signature of the District Coordinator

j. Address of the District for verification.

VII. OFFICIAL DAYS OF COMMEMORATION IN THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT

A. It has been recommended that June 24 of each year be set aside for special services of commemoration for Pastor William Ros Larson and all the members of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater New Orleans, who died in the fire at the Upstairs Lounge in New Orleans on June 24, 1973.

B. It has been recommended that the first Sunday in July be set aside as a day of commemoration of the deceased of the New Orleans Fire, as well as all other gays who have ever died as the result of oppression and persecution, especially remembering our brothers and sisters who died one million strong in Nazi concentration camps.

VIII. SOCIAL ACTION POLICY OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT:

A. Let it be recommended that no mission, study group, feasibility project or any other entity within the Northeast District, with the exclusion of chartered charters shall enter or perform the following without the expressed written permission of the Board of Home Missions:

1. Enter into legal coproration within the civil jurisdiction where the entity is located.

2. Obtain by binding lease, rent or purchase any real or capital property in excess of $1,000.00.

3. Obtain, adhere to, establish, maintain or purchase stock in any business enterprise or corporation.

4. Collect, obtain, maneuver or raise funds for the purpose of purchasing, obtaining, adhering to, establishing or maintaining stock, business enterprises or corporations, and business.

5. Retain in any mwnner any Counsellor at Law.

6. Associate, confer with, refer to, establish liaison with or in any manner maintain relations with groups, organizations and entities legally and not legally recognized which may cast impropoer considerations upon the the local entity of the Northeast District.

B. All real and capital property which is purchased for the usage of the Northeast District, missions, study groups, feasibility projects, other entities in the Northeast District and unincorporated churches shall be the property of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches held in trust only by the entity using the property.

C. ~~Xxxxxxxx~~ Let it be recommended that no church, mission, study group, feasibility project, other entity or the Northeast District will engage in the sale and distribution, by whatever means, even dubious, of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and sexually explict material in the public areas and hourse of meetings, worship and other church business, as well in areas whiccan bring ill-repute upon the church.

D. Let it be recommended that in the Northeast District no person for whatever reason shall be ever denied admittance to any church function, or the products of sale of any church function, on the basis of poverty. If necessary the pastor, director, or deacon of the church can make authoriaation for the person in poverty.

IX. CHARTERED PLANE SERVICE TO THE FIFTH GENERAL CONFERENCE:

A. It is recommended that the District and all churches look into the possibility of saving money in transportation by arranging charter air transportation servicing the Northeast District to San Francisco, California for the Fifth General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. At that time there should be no less than fifteen (15) clergy and lay delegates available to go to Conference. Also, many people from our churches may want to attend Conference, and many others may want to take the opportunity for a brief inexpensive vacation to San Francisco.

B. It is recommended that the details be handled through the office o- the District Coordinator.

C. It is recommended that final approval of the mode of transportation be made by the Board of Home Missions.

D. It is recommended that an approved charter transport system be available, operative and ready for chartering by no later than March 31, 1973.

X. LOCATION OF THE NEXT TWO CONFERENCES OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT.

XI. INSURANCE PROGRAM

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. NATIONAL NEW ORLEANS MEMORIAL FUND: Addressed by Rev. Troy D. Perry, Rev. Paul Breton, and Mr. Morty Manford

XIV. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

GOD'S WORD IN OUR WORLD: ABUNDANT LIFE FOR ALL

Mary Grubbs Greene hears the promises of Christ
for women as well as men

-- Read the Gospel of Luke --

The good news of the gospel is that God's love revealed in Christ is all-encompassing, offering abundant life to all persons: women as well as men.

As soon as one goes beyond the spirit of the gospel, however, to the living history into which the Good News entered and took root, the disparity between men and women is there for all who have "eyes to see." Many of us, both women and men, conditioned by our culture, really do not see the disparity.

Books and articles on "women in the Bible," written by well-meaning persons to build the importance of females, have only obscured the fact that the biblical cast of characters from Genesis to Revelation is predominantly male and the attitudes toward women expressed in the Scriptures reflect the male-dominated society in which biblical history was written. Where women do walk through the sacred pages they are, with few exceptions, minor characters.

Biblical literalists can make a scriptural case for keeping women "in their place" in the church -- voiceless and out of power. But most of us in the United Church of Christ are not biblical literalists, and so we must ask -- how can we take the New Testament as our guide in the Christian community and still keep Christ's promises to all persons?

This dilemma is resolved by accepting the fact of culture-conditioning in the lives of the early Christians, as well as Christians today. Within the limits of their world-view the disciples and the early Christian leaders in the New Testament were living out their understanding of the new life which had emerged in Christ.

They were not "perfect" Christians, either as individuals or as a community. Events during Jesus' life-time and in the Acts of the Apostles bear witness to human beings like ourselves who reflected the times in which they lived.

In each of the four gospels, women are outnumbered by men and are always in the lesser roles. Luke, the "beloved physician" known for his human sympathy and sensitivity, names only eight women -- Elizabeth, Anna, Joanna, Susanna, Martha and three Marys. Six nameless women appear in incidents of healing and encounter with Jesus.

Even more than the culture-conditioning, however, the religious tradition determined that men would be dominant and women would be secondary. Luke reflects this.

Shortly after Jesus was born, his parents took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as prescribed in the Jewish law -- "Every first-born male shall be deemed to belong to the Lord." When his lineage is traced, it goes through 75 males back to Adam and then to God.

Later, Jesus called 12 disciples and eventually 70 others -- all men. The continuing confrontations with scribes and Pharisees, the arrest, the trials and the crucifixion were all male dramas.

Women were there -- at the foot of the cross, at the tomb, hurrying to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen. But they are largely ignored. Only when Simon brings his confirmation of the resurrection do the disciples believe the good news.

These are the facts. Accept them. Understand the reasons for them. And then get on to the really important message of the gospel as a whole. (Bible study based on biblical chapters and books, rather than verses, is one way to rid us of biblically-justified discrimination against women.)

In the "spirit" rather than the "letter," the gospel is indeed for all of us. Christ's promises are for men and women, powerful and powerless, rich and poor, captive and free. The poor and powerless are more receptive to the message of Christ than are the rich and powerful. But, unlike worldly hierarchies, Jesus does not put one person over another.

A seldom-read story in the 13th chapter of Luke tells of Jesus meeting a woman, crippled for 18 years, in a synagogue where he was teaching. He laid his hands on her; she was cured, and she praised God. But the indignant president of the synagogue admonished Jesus in front of the congregation.

Jesus answered, "What hypocrites you are. Is there a single one of you who does not loose his ox or his donkey from the manger and take it out to water on the Sabbath? And here is this woman, a daughter of Abraham, who has been kept prisoner by Satan for 18 long years. Was it wrong for her to be freed from her bonds on the Sabbath?"

His opponents were covered with confusion and the mass of the people were delighted with the wonderful things he was doing.

The point is not that the cripple was a woman, but that she was oppressed. Held captive by a crippling disease for many years, she needed to be freed. And Christ came to free us.

The point is not that the opponents were men (although all religious leaders were men), but that they were tied to laws that cared more for preserving religious tradition and power than for human beings. And Christ came to bring life.

The point is not that the mass of the people understood and accepted all that Jesus demanded of his followers (few of us do), but that they sensed a fresh wind blowing to make human life more valuable than religious forms and traditions.

These are the promises of Christ, coming through to men and women, then and now. He assures us that all of us are precious in the sight of God and are worthy of the abundant life which he offers. Some see and hear this good news; some do not. Some resist it. But this is the whole message of the New Testament.

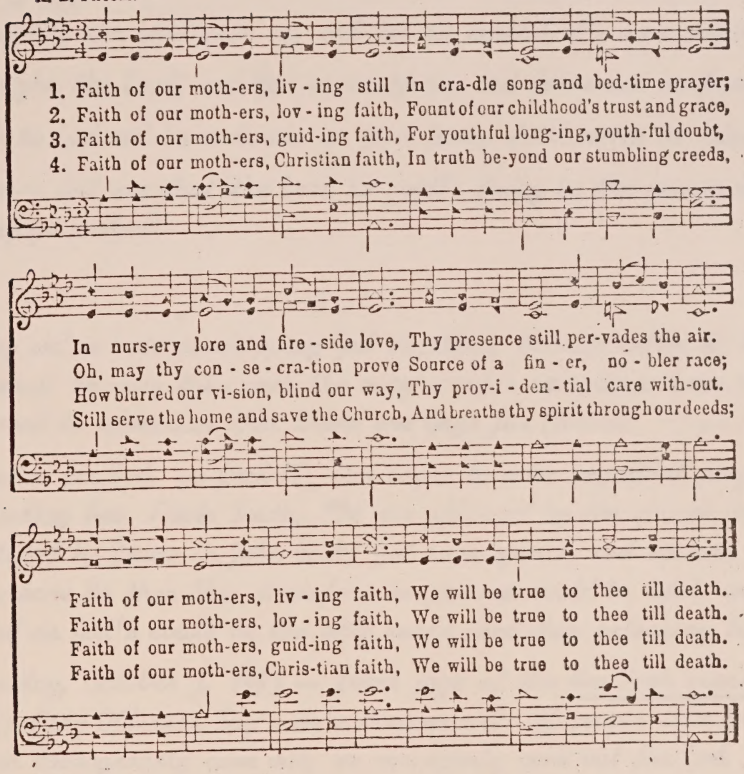
++

Faith of Our Mothers

ST. CATHERINE

A. B. PATTEN

H. F. HEMY
Arr. by JAMES G. WALTON



PSALM SANDWICH FOR GAYS

CHORUS: God loves the little children
All the children of the world,
men and women, gay and straight,
young and old and soft and bold;
Yes, God loves the little children of the world!

(Sung to the tune of "Jesus loves the little children")

Ps. 34:3,4,5,8

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together!

I sought the Lord, and God answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the person who takes refuge in God! Amen

1- Today we're here worshipping God together, because we're no longer ashamed; because this week the city's major newspapers were no longer ashamed to advertise that there are Gays for Christ! Amen!

2- As women for God, we feel MCC has begun to make important progress. Quoting Rev. Freda Smith, "It was affirmed by the church body that (as stated by Jesus in John 4:24) God is a spirit, and as such is properly no more He than She; therefore no pronoun would be used, and the words God or God's would be the only words used when referring to God." Amen!

3- Wednesday, October 3, 1973 — front page of the New York Times reads, "Ex-City Official Say's He's Homosexual!" If people like Dr. Brown can courageously come out, we can openly come out for God. Amen!

4- God wants us to live; the diversity of gay organizations is flourishing -- we even have a gay blood bank. Amen!

5- For centuries church and temple doors have been closed to the homosexual. Today, in this city alone, we've witnessed the doors opening of the Gay Synagogue, Dignity, MCC, Church of the Holy Apostles and Church of the Beloved Disciple. For many people God's now out of the closet and into the church! Amen

Ps. 3:1-6 (cover)

Ps 3:1-6

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;
Many are saying of me, there is no help for me in God.
But thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.
I cry aloud to the Lord, and God answers me from the Holy Hill.
I lie down to sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.
I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Amen!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of NEW YORK
360 WEST 28TH STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

Rev. Roy Birchard, pastor

LITANY OF ANTICIPATION

1st Speaker: "As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God." Ps. 42:1

All: "Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his going forth is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth." Hosea 6:3

1st Speaker: "Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' " Exodus 3:13, 14

2nd Speaker: "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Ps. 18:2

1st Speaker: "For who is God but the Lord? And who is a rock except our God? " Ps. 18:31

2nd Speaker: "Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful." Ps. 116:5

All: "For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." Ps. 100:5

1st Speaker: "Be still and know that I am God." Ps. 46:10

2nd Speaker: "From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides thee, who works for those who wait for him." Isaiah 64:4

1st Speaker: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24

2nd Speaker: "... God is light and in him is no darkness at all." I John 1:5

1st Speaker: " Thou dost light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness." Ps. 18:24

2nd Speaker: " Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to the Lord your God." Mat. 5:16

All: "... for love is of God, and one who loves is born of God and knows God. One who does not love does not know God; for God is love." I John 4:7,8

1st Speaker: "For I the Lord love justice. I hate robbery and wrong." Isaiah 61:8

2nd Speaker: "Let not the wise glory in their wisdom, let not the mighty glory in their might, let not the rich glory in their riches; but let one who glories glory in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the Lord." Jer. 9:23-4

All: "He will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth." Isaiah 42:4

AMEN

Northeast District MCC Women's Ministry - November 17, 18, 1973, New York City

Schedule

note: all activities will take place at the Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14 Street

1st

Saturday, 11/17

8:30 a.m.	coffee and donuts
9:00-12:00	Meetings (open with community prayer)
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-2:00	Meetings
2:00-4:00	Panel Discussion -- "Men and Women Together in MCC"
4:00-5:00	Breathing space
5:00	Service, Singing, Communion Dinner

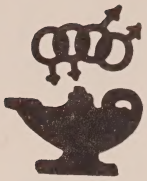
3rd

Sunday, 11/18

9:45	Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness
10:00-12:00	Meetings
12:00-1:00	Lunch and Summary Reports concurrently
1:00-2:00	Closing Worship

We hope that you'll each have a good time, and pray that the Lord will be with us and work through us in all that we do and say this weekend.

G N A



P.O. Box 5687 Phila. Pa. 19129.

OBJECTIVES:

FORUM FOR GAY NURSES

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

INFORMATION – LITERATURE

REFUTE STEREOTYPES

We feel that a group like the Gay Nurses' Alliance is long overdue within professional nursing. The prevailing myth that gay people exist only outside the profession is oppressive and prohibits gay nurses from achieving their full human potential in their professional and private lives. Failure by the nursing profession to recognize the depth and true meaning of gay love relationships continues to antagonize and distress gay patients. Nurses should not deny any group of people the support they find necessary to combat the devastating lonliness and terror of hospitalization!

Being in the vanguard of any responsible effort aimed at liberating human potential is most appropriate for nursing in its evolution from the "moved" to the "mover". Groups similar to the Alliance are already functioning within several other professional associations. The time for nursing to move is now.

Gay Nurses' Alliance

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

RN_____ LPN_____ STUDENT_____

(INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL)

G.N.A. is a very young organization and its membership is quite small at present. Membership is comprised of gay and straight Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Student Nurses. Most G.N.A. members are already active in their respective professional organizations and those who are not are encouraged to become so.

Thomas George Mullen
Gerard

(Sonny) ~~Thomas~~ yrs. old

Jan ~~3~~ 29, 1935

Prov. R.I. - at home
Vineyard St. School.
Gilbert Stuart

~~No service record~~

18 when he left home day sister got married, Dec 25, 1951. Last seen in 1953.

Light brown hair, brown eyes, 6'1" or 6'2", then at that time. Sisters have grayed early + he may have grey hair.

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

Liked to cook, Grambo

Half-sisters, Pat (wife of Bob Bernard), Marlene (Edw. Trainer), Jean (Bob Strobel).

Mother: Marie LaRocque (Malina), Father: Thomas (Moon) Mullen.

The sisters assume that he left home because he was gay. Pleasant, gentle disposition, fun-loving. Mailed card X-mas cards usually from N.Y. Two money.

Picture - 1951.

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

Came home & friend, "Ezio" said "I don't want those people in my house". Asked to leave.

Aunt did not give a note & Sonny's address to his mother. Armand LaRocque.

Uncle "I'm going to make a man out of you" & beat him. Later contacted Mrs. LaRocque ~~in~~ in California, nearly 13 years ago.

2 years ago put (2) ads in VV-N.G. Ran twice. Received a phone call, but no one answered.

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

Jean Van Over - lives in Calif.

Pat Bernard
2012 ~~No~~ New London Turnpike
Coventry, RI. 02816
(401) 826-1126

Marlene Trainer
52 Dante St.
Johnston, RI 02919
(401) 521-1785

Jean Strobel
310 Arnold Road
Coventry, R.I. 02816
(401) 828-8570

mfr.

Grandmother kept her feelings for him.

Court System —

Leather scene

mfr.

— Gay A.A. Groups —

— Aliases —

Calif phone books —

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

5 boros in N.Y.

Calif - phone books -

Rev. Marge Ragona
5607 S La Mir

Rev. Marge Ragona
5 Junction Street • Providence RI

* * * * I M P O R T A N T * * * *

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Wednesday, 6/20. Everyone should be at this meeting to decide the future of our church. Pot Luck at 7:30, meeting begins at 8:15. Please bring yourself and a dish and help plan the church program, pastoral search and choice of Worship Coordinator.

Our finances are still in poor condition. Please, please - if you owe back tithes or pledges, please bring them up to date. If you have any ideas for fund raising, please see the Pastor

Look for the Deacons/Exhorters Casino Night in July and for our July Raffle.

ALSO: Lets' remember that the Pastor and Delegate need to get to Calif. and be housed and fed during conference. We have about 1/2 of the required money for transportation and housing. Every penny counts. Goal: $500.00 On Hand: $251.00

FUTURE PLANNING

July 4 - Church picnic at Roger Williams Park or a beach if we can get transport.

June 24 - Gay Pride Day in New York. Christopher St. Liberation Day Parade Anyone interested?????

June 30 - Gay Pride Day in Providence Assembly for Parade at 12:30pm in Cathedral Square.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
134 Mathewson Street Providence, R. I.
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (401)272-9247

TRINITY SUNDAY

Singspiration Announcements Meditation

Call to Worship:

L. Rejoice in the Lord; for the word of the Lord is upright.
P: God loves righteousness and justice; all God's work is done in faithfulness.
L. By the work of the Lord the heavens were made.
P. God breathed and the host of the heavens were created.
L. God spoke and the world came to be; God commanded and it stood forth.
P. God looks down from heaven upon the children of earth.
L. From the holy throne, the Lord sees all the inhabitants of the earth;
P. God, who has fashioned our hearts and observed our deeds.
L. Our soul waits for the Lord who is our help and shield
P. Our hearts are glad in our Lord and we trust in God's holy name.

All:
Let thy steadfast love be upon us, even as we hope in Thee

Opening Hymn: Come God of Heaven and Earth G-6

Reading from the Scripture:
Acts 3: 1-16, James 1: 2-10,12-20,22

Sermon: In the Name of Jesus, Walk!

Sermon Hymn: Higher Ground P-38

Prayers of the People
Hear our Prayers O Lord

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology

Communion Hymn: Are Ye Able C-20

Prayer of Confession:

God, forgive me, when through most of the day I keep my mind on small, selfish concerns.

When I do not seek your guidance on my way.

When I am too busy to be kind or too rushed to think of someone in need.

When I have a chance to speak out of conviction, but through timidity or fear of what others may think I let that opportunity pass.

When I envy others' success or popularity

When I spend my money foolishly and fail to give to certain needs, which I try to push out of my mind.

When I fail to do the things I ought to, preferring rest and leisure to God's work.

When I fail to forgive others, yet expect God's forgiveness for my own self.

Lord, make me mindful that Jesus, who was without sin, took my sin upon himself was crucified, died, and was buried that I might live again - in you. Through Jesus who taught us to pray, saying, Our Creator-

The Lord's Supper
Special Music Carl Cornish

Sung Thanksgiving:

Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living
In this holy temple, at this holy table
Hope and life thou will enable
Now we leave and believe
That God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen

Closing Hymn: Sweet Sweet Spirit P-22

Benediction/Passing of the Peace

* *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 6/12 - Rap, "Aloneness, Loneliness and Solitude", 7:30 pm at the Parsonage.

Wednesday, 6/13 - Testimonial Dinner for our Pastor, Rev. Margo Ragona. Tickets $5:00 (less if you cannot afford it); 7:30 pm, Mathewson St. Methodist Church.

Thursday, 6/14 - Bible Study-"The Byzantine Church". Open to all church members. Exhorters are requested to attend.

Saturday, 6/16 - Gay Pride Day in Syracuse Rev. Ragona is the featured speaker

URGENT: We need more goodies for our Sidewalk Sale. If we have stuff, we can sell it. If you want to help, please see Bill Wilbur, who needs assistance.

Sunday, 6/17 - Gay Pride Day in Albany. Rev. Ragona is the featured speaker.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GREATER PROVIDENCE

IGLESIA DE LA COMMUNIDAD METROPOLITANA

DE PROVIDENCE

(Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Providence)

Muy bienvenidos a todos los hispanos de Rhode Island. Somos Iglesia que proclama a todos homosexuales la salvación de Jesucristo. La Confraternidad Universal de Iglesias de la Communidad Metropolitana fue fundada en 1968 por el Rev. Troy Perry en Los Angeles y es autor del libro El Señor es mi Pastor y sabe que soy homosexual. Esta Iglesia proclama liberación para todos, una Iglesia que ofrece su ministerio a negros y morenos, amarillos y blancos; una Iglesia en cual hay una conglomeración de pobres y ricos, viejos y jóvenes; nobles y humildes, traviesos y transexuales; una Iglesia en cual homosexual y heterosexual son bienvenidos para adorar, atestar, trabajar y servir juntos, tal Iglesia verdadera para el siglo XX. Es una Iglesia de tipo describido en el Nuevo Testamiento.

Cristianismo es la revelación de Dios en Jesucristo y es la religión constante de las Escrituras. El Antiguo Testamiento lo profetiza, el Nuevo Testamiento lo presenta, y la Iglesia Cristiana lo proclama en todos tiempos y por todas gentes. La Iglesia de la Communidad Metropolitana basa nuestra Fe en los principios de los credos históricos: el Credo de los Apóstolos y el Credo de Nicena.

Proclamamos en un Dios Triuno, de una substancia, en las personas del Padre, Hijo, y el Espíritu Santo, omnipotente y omniscio; en el Dios creador de todo y el Espíritu Universal. La Biblia es divinamente inspirada en las palabras de Dios, muestra Dios en cada persona através de la ley de los profetas, y finalmente y completamente en el ser de Jesucristo, Divino Hijo del Padre y Hijo de hombres. En la subsirviencia total de Dios, nuestro Padre, Jesús fue mostrado una vez y siempre a todos como Hijo de Dios. El Espíritu Santo es Dios conocido como el amor divina o la luz de todas las gentes del mundo. Cada persona es purificada por la Gracia de Dios através de la Fe en Jesucristo.

Fuimos salvados de la soledad, desesperación y degradación através de la Gracia de Dios que fue declarado en Nuestro Señor, Jesús. Tal gracia no es merecida sino es puro amor de Dios. Todos son hijos de Dios. Todos son hijos de Dios através de Jesucristo -- homosexuales y heterosexuales juntos.

La Iglesia de la Communidad Metropolitana de Providence encuentra cada domingo a las 7:00 PM en 134 Mathewson St., Providence (en el centro). Cada lunes a las 7:30PM hay clases en el estudio de la Biblia en 5 Junction St., Providence.

Para más información, llámese (401)-272-9247 entre las 7:30PM hasta las 9:00PM cada lunes y jueves. Richard Matera habla español y puede ayudarles y responder a sus preguntas. El pastor es el Rev. George McDermott.

En Jesucristo es nuestra Esperanza.

Rev. George S. McDermott, Pastor
5 Junction Street, Providence
401-272-9247

Sunday Services - 7:00pm
134 Mathewson Street

THE VOICE

VOL. II, NO. 5 MCC-SARASOTA MAY 1979

This is the official publication of the Metropolitan Community Church of Sarasota, Florida. MCC-Sarasota is an ecumenical Christian church for all persons, with a special ministry to the gay community. The publication of the name of any persons, business, or organization is not to be construed as indicating sexual orientation. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the individual members of MCC-Sarasota, UFMCC, or the staff of the newsletter. All who wish to contribute are urged to express their ideas freely; however, the staff reserves the right to reject or edit materials. MCC-Sarasota, a member church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) and the Southeast District, holds Mission status within UFMCC.

THE VOICE is sent free to all interested persons. To add your name to the mailing list or to correct your address, please call the church at 366-5838.

The Rev. F. Randall Hill, Minister
The Rev. A. Evan St. Ives,
Minister-in-residence

Tommy Marlin and Icie Bray, Deacons
Rachel Rogers, Deacon Candidate

ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jodie Polazzo, Mission clerk
Bob Arnwine
Jon Fairbanks, Mission treasurer
Rette Pendill

636 S. Washington Blvd, Sarasota, FL 33577. Phone (813) 366-5838.

(On the occasion of the first anniversary of Rev. Hill's ministry at MCC-Sarasota, it is appropriate to get a picture of the past year from his spouse, Tommy Marlin, who also serves as a Deacon. Thus, he was asked to write a letter we could print in THE VOICE.)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When Randall first told me he was visiting MCC-Sarasota to interview for the position of minister, I thought it was a great idea, but I didn't think we would be moving here. I knew God had a place for us, but I didn't guess it would be Sarasota, Florida.

Driving down from Knoxville, I pictured a small church with loving people. I was right! As soon as I walked into 636 South Washington that first Sunday, I felt the love of God's people, the love God has told us we must have for each other. I immediately felt a part of this family of God. I was not a stranger, praise the Lord!

Within this past year I have seen many persons come and go. Even some of the members have left; however, with God's love they all will be back soon. After all, we can't run away from God! And, for every one person who has left, God has sent us two new hearts and souls.

In Knoxville I had Randall all to myself. There were no telephone calls for counseling at 3 AM, no messages that Randall wouldn't be home for dinner because he had a meeting or an unexpected visitor to the church. But, here in Sarasota I have to share him with you; that is part of my job and I am glad to do it. I am proud of the work he is doing here. And, although we often have a warmed-over meal at eight instead of the six o'clock dinner I planned, I am happy. As a minister's spouse, I face many interruptions and it is sometimes hard work just being patient. Randall is home one minute and gone the next--off to the church, hospital, or the home of someone who needs his advice at that moment.

This church is moving forward and I thank God I am a part of it. God has done so much for me in Sarasota it would take the entire issue of THE VOICE to tell you the many ways. So, I'll just say this: God has a place for you here; just give God a chance; I love MCC-Sarasota and I see God's will being done in this church.

I have lived here only a year but I see the changes in God's house and God's people. God's love and Spirit are truly found here. If you don't believe it, then ask someone who attends every Sunday and hear what I say...or, better yet, come and see and hear for yourself.

God loves you and so do I. I am grateful that God has sent Randall and me to Sarasota and I look forward to the progress of our second year with confidence.

Yours in Christ,

Tommy

LOOKING OVER THE PAST YEAR

The Rev. F. Randall Hill

I remember clearly that day a year ago as Tommy and I approached Sarasota with a packed van and mixed emotions of happiness, joy, anxiety, and apprehension. And, we were tired. At Betty's house we were greeted warmly by the "welcoming committee," who cheerfully helped us unload the van. Still, the thought nagged, "How soon might we again be loading this van to go wherever God would lead?"

I'll never forget all the help we had in rearranging 636 South Washington Sunday afternoon, June 13, 1978. The Rev. John Ayers had delivered his last sermon as interim pastor and now the transition period was at hand.

MCC-Sarasota had a reputation--not as good as all would have liked. With its ups and downs, which all churches go through, it had just reached a serious down. Although many persons were visibly hurting, a great healing started to take place. Through God's Holy Spirit we were able to make corrections and changes as the Lord led us.

A new spirit was evident. The name was modified, benefits were planned, and the church prepared to come out of the closet. Favorable radio, television, and newspaper coverage enhanced our image and gave the community a realistic impression of the goals of MCC as a Christian church. THE VOICE was created so that MCC-Sarasota could speak and the world could hear. To help us financially, we obtained our tax-exempt status (and IRS) numbers as well as our postal permit. To increase accurate communication within the church, open monthly Board of Directors "talk-backs" were instituted. We knew we were getting back on our feet when, praise the Lord, we finally paid our past-due tithes to UFMCC and when we had our telephone reconnected!

Then, the church started revealing its message to individuals in the community by the Bar Ministry, Campus Ministry, Couples Club, and Rap Groups. All of these were successful for the time they were needed; some will soon be revived.

Wednesday night prayer service was begun and the current attendance shows the need for this successful mid-week program. Throughout this past year attendance at the Sunday services, both morning and evening, have continued to show slow-but-steady growth. And, I want to mention here the potluck suppers on Sunday evenings; recently attendance reached 20!

The church then faced head-on the question of HONESTY. Honesty not only within, among ourselves, but also without, to UFMCC and the community. On November 14, 1978, MCC-Sarasota, in a brave and daring move, demonstrated its honesty by returning the church charter and accepting mission status within UFMCC. To be honest, we simply

(continued on next page)

(LOOKING OVER, continued from page 3)

were not meeting the financial requirements of a charter church. This move has proven to be one of the most mature steps in the history of MCC-Sarasota. It has provided the challenge for growth which we needed.

During the first three months here, I had more than 150 counseling sessions with both gays and non-gays. Many were the nights I returned home after 3 AM. Some problems were solved, some still exist; but, we're working on them!

The Founder's Day picnic was a great success; all had fun. In addition, we were entertained at private parties; Tommy and I slowly adjusted to Florida. Tommy's hospitalization for a month hurt us financially and physically, but God's grace was sufficient.

Christmas, as always, was a special time. In addition to the many worship services we held, God gave us a vision of a totally remodelled building to help overcome the past. God sent us new members and the people's response was overwhelming: the gifts of dimes and dollars, talents and time poured over us. On May 13, 1979, we dedicated not only a new worship center, but also a new people for the Glory of God.

Other highlights of the past year include a visit by the Evangelistic Team, a successful auction benefit, Adam DeBaugh's visit at our February benefit (who will ever forget our own "Cinderella?") and our Easter sunrise service, sparsely attended because I didn't know the difference between "north" and "south" once I got on the beach! But what a delightful Easter morning breakfast...of course, it was well-attended!

Yes, in only a year's time, many persons have "caught the vision of MCC" and have put their hands to the plow, determined never to look back again.

We have an excellent Advisory Board of Directors--a solid Board, a dedicated Board, but not a "yes" Board. They cheerfully tackle the infinite number of problems of a growing church and this is reflected in the constructive talk-backs we have had with the congregation every month. I have never worked with a finer Board.

MCC-Sarasota has become a leader among our churches in Florida. God has given us excellent public acceptance in this community as reflected in the ever-increasing number of new persons attending MCC-Sarasota and in the growth and demand on our Speaker's Bureau which is educating the community and spreading the Good News to all.

Our food cupboard, clothes closet, and support of the gay alcoholics group are further examples of our outreach to those n need, regardless of their sexual orientation or religious preference.

(continued on next page)

(LOOKING OVER, continued from page 4)

I envision the membership roll of MCC-Sarasota at more than 100 active members by this time next year!

And that has many consequences--we will need more chairs and more space. We will need more ministries. We will need additional staff--deacons, exhorters, and an assistant minister. Please pray with me that God will continue to send dedicated workers.

"Impossible!", you say? WATCH US GROW!!

We are moving onward...forward...upward...for the Glory of God, spreading the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord, alive through each of us and that God loves us all, just the way God created us!

As Tommy and I begin our second year in Sarasota, our hearts are overwhelmed with love for you. Also, we know we are loved. This church has moved ahead with that love and positive thinking. Tommy and I join hands in saying from the depths of our hearts, "Thank you."

Thank you for loving us and allowing us to love you.
Thank you for your constant support and your hard work.
Thank you for caring and helping us and others in the community.
Thank you for encouraging us to contribute to the growth of MCC-Sarasota.

Please know and remember always: you are loved!

- -

MCC-SARASOTA TO HOST SOUTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE MAY 1980

We must begin planning early to make this the best organized and spiritually inspiring conference in the history of this district. We need volunteers NOW as chairpersons for the following:

1) General Conference
2) Housing
3) Music, Orchestra
4) Arrangements
5) Program
6) Publicity
7) Entertainment
8) Meals
9) Registration

We expect 200-300 persons to attend and housing in homes will be needed. In addition to the chairpersons listed above, committee members will be needed in all areas...and...you do not need to be a member of MCC to serve on these committees. Please call Rev. Hill today at 366-5838 and volunteer.

There is a need for every person's time and talents!

ALCOHOLIC AND GAY?

Want to drink? That's your business. Want to stop? That's ours!

When it comes to drinking, gay or not, we alcoholics are all in the same situation. If interested, come join us for good fellowship at MCC-Sarasota, 636 So. Washington Blvd, every Thursday evening. The bottomless coffee pot starts perking at 7:30 PM. The open one-hour discussion group begins at 8 PM sharp!

Everyone is welcome. Try our way of life for 90 days. If not satisfied, misery "cheerfully refunded."

Also, those interested in forming a gay al-anon group for lovers and friends of gay alcoholics are invited to attend.
(Please note this gay and alcoholics group is not affiliated with MCC.)

- -

IN MEMORIUM

MCC-Sarasota extends its deepest sympathy to "Uncle Lenny" and his family on the death of his father.

THANK YOU
The Advisory Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support of our benefits. We appreciate your telling your friends. June benefit: picnic and softball game (men vs women). July benefit: old-time movies, silents, etc. Details for both to follow.

GAY NURSES ALLIANCE
We have received information about the Gay Nurses Alliance. If you are interested and want more information, call the church, 366-5838.

SPEAKERS BUREAU OF MCC-SARASOTA
The demand for speakers in the community is growing. On May 17, Rev. Hill, Tommy Marlin, Gail Walton, Jodie Polazzo, and Bim Burns spoke at USF to a law class on homosexuality. It was well-received. In addition, Gail, Jodie, and Kenny talked with an USF class for registered nurses on the same subject. Many law enforcement persons were also present and all reports on that meeting are very favorable.

THREE NEW MEMBERS
At the Building Dedication service, May 13, three persons were received into membership in MCC-Sarasota: Gail, Vicki, and "Uncle Lenny." Welcome!!

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES...
to Rachel and Cyndi on the occasion of their Holy Union, May 10, 1979.

GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS...
Gail and Vicki on the occasion of their Holy Blessing, May 13, 1979.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH
Religion is bread to be used each day, not cake to be saved for special occasions.

"PAPA JOHN" TO SPEAK MAY 27

The Rev. Elder John Hose of MCC-Tampa will be our guest speaker at Sunday morning (11 AM) worship services, May 27. This will mark his last Sunday as the official minister of MCC-Tampa, although he will continue his excellent work throughout the Fellowship. MCC-Sarasota joins with others in the Fellowship in wishing "Papa John" success and happiness in the days ahead.

JOIN THE CHURCH ON JUNE 3

New members will be received into MCC-Sarasota on Sunday, June 3, at the 11 AM worship service. If you would like to be a member, please call Rev. Hill at 366-5838 now! There is still time to receive instruction at your convenience.

TALK-BACK JUNE 3

After morning services on Sunday, June 3, there will be a talk-back. Whether or not you are a member of MCC-Sarasota, this is the time for the congregation and the Advisory Board of Directors to discuss the current status of the church as well as its future. We are growing and we welcome your suggestion and comments at this meeting.

SAVE YOUR STAMPED ENVELOPES

Please save all your old envelopes with used postage stamps. The church is able to sell these for additional income. Although we eventually remove the stamps and throw away the envelopes, please do NOT remove the stamps from the paper or cut them. We need undamaged, used stamps on paper.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

During this past month you have given the church: more food for the hungry and clothes, which are being distributed free to those who need them. You also gave a dozen reams of paper for THE VOICE as well as more than 20 altar candles. Thanks also to those who gave styrofoam cups for coffee, paper plates and napkins for the potluck suppers, and much-needed paper towels and tissue for the restrooms. We continue to need these disposable items...AND...would you please donate: coffee (electric perc grind), grape juice (for communion), ice trays for our freezer, and bars of soap. Potted plants and flowers help to brighten up the church. Who will donate printing costs ($50 each) for What it Means to Join MCC and a new booklet for the public, Questions and Answers about MCC-Sarasota.

UFMCC GENERAL CONFERENCE, LOS ANGELES, AUGUST 13-19

Your registration fee of $10 insures that you will get the pre-conference reports as well as the final Gen. Conf. IX Report and Directives. Room reservations at The Biltmore Hotel must be made before July 1, 1979, to hold your room. See Rev. Hill for forms.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

As we go to press we have just learned that Carl Lytle has been hospitalized. He is allowed visitors or you may wish to send a card. Doctors Hospital-Room 261, 2750 Bahia Vista, Sarasota, 33579.

Dear VOICE,
In the March issue you promised that we would have new singspiration songbooks, retyped and reprinted. What happened???
(signed) Sister Soprano and Brother Bass
P. S. Can we still dedicate two of these for $1.00?

Dear Soprano and Bass,
The revision of the singspiration songbook has been so extensive that it has taken longer than anticipated to complete the rough draft and correct it. If you wish to see that copy, please ask Rev. Hill for a sneak preview.

We now need your dollars to reproduce the new copy. Yes, for only $1.00 you can dedicate two of these in honor or memory of someone you love. A dedication plate will be placed on the inside front cover of both books.

Sincerely,
THE VOICE

P. S. Would you please contact Alto and Tenor for their dollar contributions to this worthy cause.

- -

The Sarasota County Chapter of the American Red Cross has asked us to print the following message. Won't you help?

"Red Cross needs materials for children to use in making tray favors and greeting cards for patients in the area nursing homes. Carpet squares, fabric squares, wallpaper samples, bric-a-brac, small baby food jars, construction paper, and pipe cleaners (all colors) are needed. Call Vivian Dougherty at 365-4292."

- -

THE 4th ANNUAL FLORIDA GAY & LESBIAN CONFERENCE will be held in Ft. Lauderdale on May 26-28, 1979. In addition to films and social activities, there will be workshops covering such topics as, "...Coming Out, Gay Political Lobbying, Lesbian Sexuality, Gay Male Sexuality, Gays and the Law, Relationships, Gays and Religion,...and keynote speakers...Ensign Vernon Berg, subject of the book, Get Off My Ship, Troy Perry, Adam DeBaugh, and Jean Smith."

Registration is $15 (after May 15) and limited free housing available.

Pick up application blanks at the church or write or call:

Conference Committee
Broward Coalition for Human Rights
727-A No. Andrews Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
Phone: (305) 763-2857

- -

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday: Worship at 11 AM and 7:30 PM; potluck at 6 PM
Wednesday: Prayer service at 7:30 PM
Choir practice at 8:45 PM

WHY DO WE HAVE FIVE SEPARATE ACCOUNTS?

(1) Payroll: Here we keep district and UFMCC tithes, withholding tax on the minister's salary, and the salary itself.

(2) Deacons: This account derives its name from the fact that the deacons are responsible for soft drinks, coffee, and donuts in the church as well as for distribution of snacks and beverages at benefits. The deacons are not paid employees. They receive no money or other compensation for their services, but are, of course, reimbursed when they buy the donuts, etc., out of their own pockets.

(3) Special Activities: The income is from bookstore sales, advertising sales and donations to THE VOICE, and money from dances and other benefits. Bills are paid from this account for books and records for the bookstore as well as supplies for THE VOICE (ink, stencils, paper, postage). Expenses for benefits (rent,advertising) are paid from this account.

(4) General: Income is from tithes and offerings. All other expenses are paid from this account including rent and insurance on the church and utilities (telephone,water,electricity).

(5) Savings: Designated funds (Building,Conference) are kept here until needed and earn interest.

WHO REPRESENTS YOU AT UFMCC? (OR,WHY WE NEED $800!)

Rev. Hill represents MCC-Sarasota in the UFMCC House of Clergy. We elected Tommy Marlin as our delegate to the House of Laity of UFMCC at the annual congregational meeting, November 14, 1978. Tommy casts the official vote on behalf of the MCC-Sarasota congregation (you!) at the district conference and the General Conference, which will be held in Los Angeles on August 13-19. We must send these two members to LA and must raise $800 more (we already have $200) before July 1, 1979. (At that November meeting we elected Jon Fairbanks, First Alternate, and L. Dean, Second Alternate. They will be sent (in that order) if Tommy is unable to go to LA.)

HOW DID WE DO ($) IN APRIL?

Financial report for April 1979, by Jon Fairbanks.
These are the monthly bank statement transactions and balances.
For the actual "cash received" and outstanding bills, please read the comment following the table.

	Balance 3-31-79	Checks Tot. amt	Deposits Tot. amt	Balance 4-30-79	Service charge
Deacons	13.09	32.25	37.81	15.65	3.00
Payroll	166.45	555.96	645.15	252.50	3.14
Spec. Activ.	46.86	54.57	64.75	54.02	3.02
General	300.90	1714.59	1841.83	423.76	4.38

Receipts (offerings and tithes) for April (five Sundays) were $780; our weekly budget is $270. Thus, the deficit for April is $570.

We now have a total of $1585 in outstanding bills, to the end of May.

Please bring a friend or two and give an extra dollar or two.

IN YOUR BOOKSTORE

New UFMCC decals for tee shirts, sweatshirts, etc., are now available in the bookstore for only $1.00. These are of excellent quality and are transferred to material (preferably cotton) with a hot iron. Be proud of MCC! Show your colors! You will be amazed at how many persons will ask you about the emblem...it's your chance to be a witness for the Good News.

. . . . . .

We have discontinued Gaysweek due to lack of response.

. . . . . .

HELP MCC-SARASOTA WITH A SUBSCRIPTION ... The Advocate will pay MCC-Sarasota $3.00 for every one-year subscription sold at the regular rate of $15.00. The church will receive $5.00 for every two-year subscription ($27). These must be ordered on special subscription blanks available in the church. ORDER NOW!!

. . . . . .

In Unity including The Gay Christian, 75¢ a copy,

is published bimonthly. In Unity is the magazine of UFMCC; The Gay Christian is a journal of theological relection for UFMCC, an open forum for thought to which you are encouraged to submit articles and comments. Some of the recent articles are:

Feb/Mar '79: A Welcome to (Not) All Persons by Gregor W. Pinney.
UFMCC Statement of Faith by Rev. Bob Wolfe.
The Veil of the Temple by Larry J. Uhrig.

Apr/May '79: Counting the Cost (or My Beautiful Tiffany Necklace) by Rev. Roy Birchard.
So You Want to be a Preacher...by Rev. Shelley Hamilton.

. . . . . .

Also, the following paperbacks, among others, are available:

The World in the Evening, Christopher Isherwood, $2.50

Christian Sexuality, Richard R. Mickley, $3.95

The Equal Rights Handbook, Riane T. Eisler, $1.95

The Day on Fire, James R. Ullman, $2.50

The Story of Harold, Terry Andrews, $4.95

Tramp for the Lord, Corrie Ten Boom, $2.95

Jigsaw, Geoffrey Linden, $2.95

ART EXHIBIT AT MCC-SARASOTA

MCC-Sarasota thanks Carl Lytle for the magnificent display of his original watercolors now on exhibit in the church auditorium. All of these paintings are for sale and Carl has offered to donate a portion of the sale price of each painting to the church. If you are interested in purchasing one of these, please contact Rev. Hill at 366-5838.

Patio	$300	Picnic	$ 300
Mayaka Moon Vine	450	Catch Mo	200
Mayaka Morning Mist	600	When it Rains,	
Open Door	150	Street She Shine	500
Dismal Day	600	Cous Cous Woman	1000

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PLEASE patronize our advertisers listed below and thank them for their support of THE VOICE and MCC-Sarasota.

THIS MONTH we welcome a new advertiser: The LaSalle Motel.

CLASSIFIED SECTION

STINGER'S for a great time and P & P*

25¢ Miller draft on Tuesday nights
50¢ Heineken draft on Thursday nights

where? First at Central in beautiful, downtown Sarasota (366-5878)
Open 11 AM to 2 AM Monday through Friday ... and ...
4 PM to 2 AM Saturday and Sunday.

WHAT! Yes! New! The Crystal Room! Opening soon!
*pool and pinball

- - - - - - - - -

LaSALLE MOTEL ... Welcome! ... We are open and waiting for you at 714 No. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.
If you can't stay over, come by and say hello.
When you check in, MENTION MCC AND GET A DISCOUNT!

- - - - - - - - -

RYAN'S is the someplace else for DISCO. All nite after-hours bottle club; bring your own liquor or beer.

when? Nightly for DISCO. Bottle club 2 AM to 5 AM.
3140 No. Tamiami Trail (at 32nd St.), Sarasota (355-7569)

- - - - - - - - -

T-SHIRTS "A day without Human Rights is like a Day without Sunshine" T-shirts only $5.50 each. Call Bim 758-0093.

PENCILS READY? Match these familiar Biblical quotations with the correct chapter and verse. The Layman's Parallel Bible, which contains four Bibles in one volume, was used to prepare this puzzle: King James Version (KJ), Modern Language Bible (ML), Living Bible (LB), and Revised Standard Version (RSV).

A. John 3:16 (KJ)
B. I Corinthians 13:13 (LB)
C. Genesis 1:1 (KJ)
D. Psalms 100:1 (ML)
#. Revelation 5:1 (ML)
F. Proverbs 16:27 (LB)
G. Exodus 20:3 (KJ)
H. Revelation 22:21 (LB)
I. Matthew 5:8 (RSV)
J. Psalms 23:1 (RSV)

____1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

____2. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

____3. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

____4. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

____5. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

____6. I also saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll with writing inside and outside, sealed with seven seals.

____7. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

____8. Idle hands are the devil's workshop; idle lips are his mouthpiece.

____9. There are three things that remain--faith, hope, and love--and the greatest of these is love.

____10. Make a joyful sound to the Lord, all ye lands!

- -

THE VOICE
636 South Washington Blvd.
Sarasota, Florida 33577

"And when you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders;"
--Deuteronomy 5:23 (RSV)

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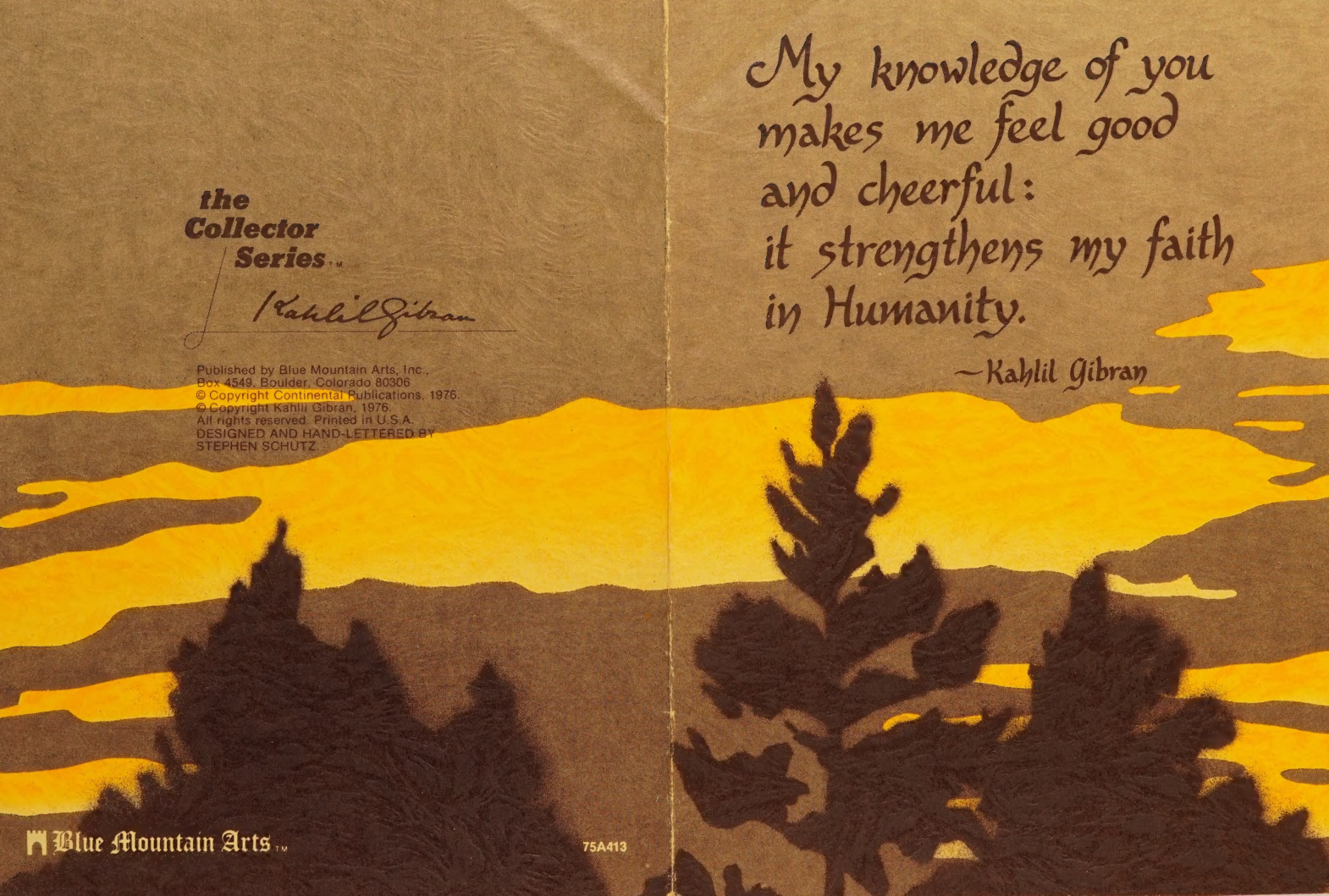
the Collector Series™
Kahlil Gibran
Published by Blue Mountain Arts, Inc.,
Box 4549, Boulder, Colorado 80306
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My knowledge of you
makes me feel good
and cheerful:
it strengthens my faith
in Humanity.
—Kahlil Gibran

for all your- freely
shared and given
yrs. Thank You --
You'll be greatly missed
but never forgotten.

Love -

Mac

Randy -

May the Lord
bless You abundantly
with Every gift and
blessing You need to
sustain ---

Your convictions -
Your deep faith --
Your tender love --
and Your Great Courage.

You Certainly are a one
beautiful woman
when I'll always remember
in my prayers
my love
and in my heart

Providence

97 Stanton ave.
Riverside R.I. 02915
1-401-437-1916

Dear Marge,

This is a hard letter for me to write. But it is something that I must do I sincerely hope that you will take time to read it, and not read it when you are rushed. as I really want you to understand where I am coming from at this time of my life. I also hope that you can make some time, and find it in your heart to answer me.

When you were pastoring here in Prov. both of us came upon troubled waters, and neither our faith nor our Christian Love for each other was strong enough to sustain us. We became tangled and lost in outside gossip, and false rumors. I feel that both of us let our fears run amuck, which really got in the way of our trust and concerns for each other. When you left Prov. I was not able to deal with my feelings toward you, my feelings were many, and very mixed.

Emotionly I was in very deep pain, and I felt that even though I was always supportive of you, and I never lied to you, there always remaied that little seed of doubt on your part. I wish that you had known me better at that time in our lives, for if you had known me deeply there would not have been any indecision.

Since you have been away from Prov. I have taken the time to deal with my pain, and my dislike for you. I took this to our Lord in prayer many, many times. As I told you before my feelings were very mixed. My dislike for you was born out of the emotional pain I was going through.

The time has come for me to rededicate my life to Jesus, and I can only do this by making peace with You and letting you know that you are loved.

I am sorry that I was unable

to attend the "Ten Year Reunion". If I had been there we could have talked and I would have been able to tell you these things in person.

I have heard that things are difficult and painful for you in Boston. I want you to know that I hold you and your congregation up in daily Prayer. If there is any way that I can help, please let me know. If you have a lay-ministry I would like to come to Boston and speak to your congregation. Perhaps I can help because I have been there. Remember Prov. has burned out it's share of ministers also. Before you answer this last part of my letter, please take it to Our Lord in Prayer, Look to Jesus for your answer.

I hope our friendship can be rekindled in Love, Trust, and Faith in each other.

Sincerly Yours
Pat Applely

Barbara F. Dewey

and

Michael D. Levesque

invite you to share with us

the beginning of our new life together

on Saturday, the eighteenth of August

Nineteen hundred and seventy=nine

at ten=thirty o'clock

Saint Mary's Church

Pine Street

Pawtucket, Rhode Island

© NU ART INC CHGO.

March 29, 1979

Marge,

I realize that my actions tonight Confirm my being written out of the exhorter program of the church. I am saddened and hurt by this, but accept it without malice ~~towards~~ anyone or anger. I realize that my actions were not that of an exhorter and also feel that probably this is a wise action on your part. I have tried — really tried — to learn and grow. Apparently I have not done so — at least in some people's eyes. I have always thought and still

do, I might add, that I have a lot to offer the Church and the gay Community as a whole. It is my hope that I may find other ways to help now. The ACLU gay Rights Committee is in need of A new voice. I hope I can help. Also NGTF is important to this city and the state. I want to help there also. I will continue to support the Church with my prayers and my limited financial way. But right now I think I need some distance to sort things out. This hit a little suddenly and I need time and space to collect my thoughts. I would hope that someone continues the Sunday School. The children are so important and so valuable. I do want to talk with

you. But not for awhile. I think you will understand. I still have such a deep love for you and that will never end. Although right now the most loving thing I can do for you and you for me is to have some space. The hurt is too deep right now to discuss anything rationally. Thank you for imparting a great deal of knowledge in such a short time.

I continually find it amazing how God seems to have other plans for our lives than those we make. I hope that God has something exciting in store for me.

Phil

Rev. Linda Brebner
Old Cambridge Bapt. Church

Cambridge, Mass.

Marti
2r Railroad Ave.
Central Falls, R.I. 02863

Margaret Norrington & Sue Daum
93 W. Main St.
Norton, Mass 02766

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1168 Newport Ave
Pawtucket

Councilman Charles Mansolillo *
City Hall
Prov. R.I. 02903

Norman Jacques
Great Road
Lincoln, R.I.

Sr. Mary Riley
Sr. Liz Moroney
181 Gallatin St.
Prov. R.I.

Sr. Immaculee
17 Washburn St.
Prov. 02908

Sr. Helen

Rev. Dr. Wilbur Ziegler
Meth. Meth. Church
134 Mathewson St.
Prov. RI

Rev. Mr. Wm. French
Same addr.

Dean Carolyn Davies
R.I. S.D.
29 Waterman St.
Prov. R.I.

Rev. Richard Bausman
First Bapt. Church in Cranes.
15 No. Main St.
Prov R.I. 02906

Rev. David Ames
35 Boylston Ave
Prov. R.I.

Rev. Richard Dannenfelser, Chaplain
Brown University
Prospect Street
Prov. R.I.

Mr. Mike Dallinger
ACLU

Mr. John Gaffney
A.C.L.U.

Mr. Charles Noice
58 North St.
E. Providence, R.I.

Cathy Gorman

Prov. R.I.

Irene Lefebvre
26 Lyon St
Pawtucket ~~Prov.~~ R.I. Res. Forard

Mrs. Paula Johnson
244 - 3652

Mr. Lou Philpott
133 Peterboro
Boston, Mass

Ms. Lacey Sargman
44 Garland St
Jam. Plain, Mass. 02130

Sam Bethony + David Russell
451 ~~Shawmut~~ Shawmut Ave
Boston, Mass

Sheila Berger
2072 Smith St.
No. Prov, RI Apt 1010

Carol Burgeson
54 Hillcrest Rd.
E. Bridgewater, Mass

Bonnie Stewart
54 Hillcrest Rd.
E. Bridgewater, Mass.

Mr. Dan Donnelly
100 Park Place
Pawtucket, RI

Mr. Chris Gunidon
1087 Greenwich Ave
Warwick, R.I 02886

Gerry Hill
73 Crest Drive
Prov. RI

Paul Hixies
R.I. J.C. - Blackstone Valley Campus

Lincoln, R.I.

Ray LaRiviere
33 Huxley Ave
Prov. RI 02908

Walter Laurie
P.O. Box 533
Pawt. RI 02862

Preston Lightsey
24 Sheldon St
Prov. RI

Nancy Krody
P.O. Box 6315
Phila, Pa. 19139

I Barbara Kendall do not feel I can do my job as an eporter right at this time. I am requesting a leave of absence for a few weeks. My problems will not allow me to give it the attention that I feel necessary to be a good eporter.

Barbara Kendall

P.S. I would also like to become a inactive member of the church.

B. K.

july 11th

marge — hello.

i am presently residing in Portland oregon.

but am keeping in touch with the activities in Providence, especially GCS.

i heard you were re-locating also to Los Angeles, California. i wish you luck — and if you need to contact me, my ~~new~~ new address, until September 15th — is

val southern
c/o s. campbell
4022 sw corbett
apt. 3
Portland, oregon 97201
503 - 244-8898.

i attended the Gay Pride Day here in Oregon, and was quite impressed with Rev. Denis Moore,

from the MCC here in Portland. She was quite dynamic and I enclose a brochure for your review.

Take care marge, my regards to all the folks.

val southern.

Lifeline

A Link of Communication

MCC Worcester, Mass.

Volume 1, Issue 3

NOW???

"Is not the single goal, the single purpose of ALL churches (and indeed God's purpose) to improve human relationships? The centrality of love as the positive dynamic in human relationships is generally presupposed. I believe we need to strive mightily to convince all humankind that LOVE and JUSTICE are synonymous. We have become separate members of the Body of Christ out of necessity, because that Body has strayed from demonstrating that all human beings need not only be loved, but need to be dealt with justly!"

These were the thoughts and feelings of the Rev. Elder John H. Hose as he delivered the keynote address to the first General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in 1970. The spirit of this address and of this person led those four congregations (then in existence) to triumph as the vanguard of the "New reformation". Papa John, as he is now known, issued the rallying cry which is now carried into the eighties... LOVE and JUSTICE are synonymous, but there are those who have failed to recognize that: Jerry Falwell and his moral majority, scores of politicians and candidates who continue to oppose the ERA and measures which would bring about such justice, churches and denominations, as well as members of the public at large; and, sadly enough, even members of the Gay/Lesbian Community!

Over the past few months I have been engaged in dialog with civic leaders, human rights advocates and leaders of the religious community in the city of Worcester. Conversations with Francis McGrath, Mayor Jordan Levy, Police Chief Halstead Taylor and Human Rights Commission Director Stephen Levinson proved to be enlightening and, somewhat, fruitful. I have supplied those leaders as well as the members of the City Council with pertinent information, statistics, etc., concerning full human rights ordinances in municipalities, counties and states throughout this nation.

It is the firm belief of many involved in the human rights struggle, including those in Washington and New York, that positive gains must be made in our struggle prior to the possible election of right-wing backed lawmakers.

This summer, MCC Worcester asked the local Ecumenical Council to pass a resolution supporting full civil rights for gays and lesbians. MCC Worcester has in its possession a letter from Bishop Flanagan supporting such civil rights. We would like to push that issue!!!

We find it important to inform our community and will attempt to enlist input and feedback from as wide a spectrum as possible. I believe the time is now; the eighties are ours! Your response will help chart the future plans and strategy. It's up to you....

Rev. Jon

Jon

GAY RAP

More than 30 men and women have participated so far in a weekly RAP series on "Homosexuality: Rules, Roles and Relationships"; which meets every Thursday at 7pm at 2 Wellington Street. The average attendance each week has been more than 16.

Presently, the group is finishing the eight-week series, and plans to continue with topics which were brought forth out of previous discussions. These include: fear, role playing, holidays, and coming out to friends.

During the past seven weeks, participants have grown closely together, and sharing has become a joyful, and sometimes slightly painful, experience. If you would like more information on the RAP, please call 753-8360.

GAY ISSUES

The Exodus Center, a non-profit resource founded to help sexual minorities and their families achieve positive self images, will be holding its First Annual Conference on Sat. Nov. 15, in Cambridge, MA. "Issues of Gay Life" includes workshops on coming out, getting older, holidays, parenthood, handicaps, alcoholism, legal problems, and gay homophobia.

Cost of the conference is $15, but pre-registration saves you $3. For info call 753-8360.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Friday, October 31, Another Way Drop-In Center will be holding a Halloween Party during its regular Coffee House, 6-10 p.m. There will be prizes for the best costumes, and seasonal refreshments will be available in addition to coffee, soda, etc.

Attendance at the Coffee House has jumped dramatically recently. Many new faces have appeared and good fellowship has become a regular Monday and Friday night feature. The Coffee House is open every Monday and Friday evening, 6 - 10 p.m.

MIDWEEK EVENT

Midweek Communion is served every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Drop-In Center. Members and friends of MCC gather around the supper table to break bread together and share the cup. It is a time of reflection and strengthening and is followed by the weekly potluck supper.

Bring a covered dish, if you can, and join us for this midweek time of fellowship.

THE BOARD

During the Congregational meeting in September, several vacancies on the Board of Directors of MCC were filled. The present Board is now made up of the following people:

Stew Ireland - Clerk
Alan Hultgren - Treasurer
Kenn Barr - Hotline Director
Cathy Bent - Bylaws Chair
Bob MacDonald - Membership Chair

Board meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month and are open to everyone. Meeting time is 7:45 p.m.

GRADUATE INTERN

Marie Ellis of Pittsfield, MA, was recently accepted as Graduate Intern at MCC Worcester. Marie is a graduate student at Worcester State, and will be working at MCC Worcester until mid-February. Her intern project at MCC includes liason work on Hotline cooperation with the Crisis Center, resource referral work with other city agencies, Parents of Gays facilitation, and some minor office work.

Marie is the single parent of a daughter and son.

PARENTS MEET

An informal meeting for Parents and Friends of Gays was held at the Drop-In Center during the month of September.

The first official meeting to form a local chapter will be held on Saturday, November 8, at 7:30

p.m. at 2 Wellington Street. All parents, friends, as well as sons and daughters are urged to attend. Parents and Freinds of Gays is now a national association with chapters in cities across the US.

THOUGHT .....

" I know I am somebody....., because God doesn't make junk!"

TALE OF A UBILAM!

(from the Bellringer, MCC Philly)

What is a "ubilam"? Well, a ubilam wasrecently provided by a rather remarkable set of events to the pastors of MCC Philadelphia. An ubilam is dark green, and people have fun with it. It eats petroleum products (only in moderation, we hope) and has two seats and fours wheels. It has a good-sized trunk (NO, it's not an elephant), and has many relatives around town. It replaced a nustad, and is much bigger and shinier than the nustad , too. It is also five years younger than the nustad which was getting sick a lot. And what were these remarkable circumstances that gave birth to an ubilam? Well, the Sunday before "delivery", the pastor talked about stewardship and pledging, and asked special pledges of a week's grocery money. The pastor and I made our pledge (on top of our tithe) and the ubilam arrived five days later, worth exactly 100 times the amount of our pledge and tithe. We couldn't "outgive" God! The real funny thing is the same thing happened when our nustad was born, too....the cause was different, but the circumstances close to being the same. Put Gof to the test.....and maybe you will get your ubilam or your nustad, or your noitacav, or your esouh wen, or your esiar....Try it, you'll like it.....

P.S. If you don't think this really works, check with Bob Bruso...

CALENDAR

Sundays: 7 p.m. worship service followed by fellowship hour.
Mondays: 6-10 p.m. Coffee House
Tuesdays: 1st. Bible Rap 7:35 p.m.
2nd and 4th. Board meeting
3rd. Prayer Group at 7:35 p.m.
Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Midweek Communion followed by Potluck Sup.
Thursdays: 6 p.m. Choir
7 p.m. Gay/Lesbian Rap
8:15 p.m. WCUW's "Straight Talk about Gays", 91.3 FM
Fridays: 6-10 p.m. Coffee House

GCN on sale

The Gay Community News, published out of Boston is now on sale at the Drop-In Center. The new issues appear on our stand every Monday. Regular cost of 50¢, with 20 ¢ going to MCC. Please drop by and get your copy at 2 Welling ton Street. GCN is a must for every informed gay man or lesbian woman.

Women's Books

The Women's Bookstore on May Street celebrated its second anniversary on October and continues to serve the community with a large selection of women's books, records, cards, etc. as well as outstanding programs geared to the needs of the women's community.

Store hours are Tue, Wed and Thurs. 10 - 9 ; Mon, Fr, and Sat 10-6. Call 791-5127 for info and latest programming. Books by, for and about women.

NOTES .....

MCC Worcester celebrated its 6th anniversary in October (together with the Mailbox), while the UFMCC celebrated its 12th anniversary as a denomination.

MCC hosted its first District conference in October and welcomed brothers and sisters from all over New England and New York.

FINANCIAL NEED

At a recent special meeting of the Board of Directors, the financial status of MCC Worcester was discussed in detail. The sad situation is that at present, the church is some $1,200 in the red.

At this time, the hotline has been disconnected, office supplies and phone costs are being kept to a minimum, rent on 2 Wellington Street is still several months behind, and the regular phone bill is also still outstanding.

The truth of the matter is that a handful of people are trying to keep the total operation of MCC solvent. Much more of a public awareness is needed to let the community know this serious situation. MCC provides a Drop-In Center which is freqented by many who are not part of MCC on Sundays The pastor provides valuable counseling services to the entire community, again many of whom are not part of the MCC congregation. MCC serves as a clearinghouse of information to the entire community. Rent, utilities, pastor's stipend, materials, phones, postage, etc., have proven to be too heavy of a burden for the few, and we must ask others to help carry the responsibility. We humbly ask everyone to consider a special gift to MCC to help offset the debt. Please make your check payable to MCC Worcester, and mail it to 2 wellington Street, Worcester MA 01610. It is tax deductible! Thank you.

STATISTICS

For your information, the following statistics were filed by the pastor of MCC Worcester with the church's headquarters. Regular quarterly reports are filed, and these figures represent July, August and September:

Baptisms 2; Holy Unions 4; Counseling sessions 71; hospital visitations 9; pastoral home visits 23; speaking engagements 4; meetings with mayor, city manager, chief of police, human rights commission director, etc. ; meetings with the media 6; meetings/ communication with other Gay organizations (regional and national) 7; bar ministry 6; contact with area religious leaders 6; average monthly total of telephone inquiries, information, emergency short-term counseling, etc. 121; Church Board meetings 10; congregational meeting 1; church services 13; midweek communions 11; in addition:

potluck suppers every weds.
Rap group attended by more than 30 persons, so far.
Coffee house attendance increasing.
Church attendance steady to slightly up.

MORE....

Other statistics tell the financial story:

Sept. 1980 income	919.06
Sept. 1980 expenses	1,133.63

Bills outstanding as of 9/30/80

Pastor's stipend	$ 75.00
Parsonage Rent	250.00
Church Rent/Center	450.00
Utilities	52.16
Church phone	80.23
hotline phone	53.74
T&G ads	78.12
Parsonage utitlity	67.39
UFMCC	56.07
Northeast District	16.82
TOTAL	1,179.53

H E L P ! ! !

THOUGHT...

"When you are sad....I cry. And when you are hurt....I bleed. I feel your pain and I know your thoughts.

So when all else crumbles to the ground....I will stand as your support....."

---from NEW WINE
MCC Pittsburgh

If you have something to share for the next issue of Lifeline, mail it c/o 2 Wellington Street Worcester MA. Deadline Nov. 25.

Our Creator.....

OUR CREATOR, WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
Help me to believe this day that there is a power to lift me up which is stronger than all the things that hold me down.
HALLOWED IS YOUR NAME,
Help me to be sensitive to what is beautiful, and responsive to what is good, so that day by day I may grow more sure of the holiness of life in which I want to trust.
YOUR COMMONWEALTH COME,
Help me to be quick to see, and ready to encourage, whatever brings the better meaning of God into that which otherwise might be the common round of the uninspired day.
YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN,
Help me to believe that the ideals of the spirit are not a far-off dream, but a power to command my loyalty and direct my life here on our real earth.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD,
Open the way for me to earn an honest living without anxiety; but let me never forget the needs of others, and make me want only that benefit for myself which will also be their gain.
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US,
Make me patient and sympathetic with the shortcomings of others, especially those I love; and keep me sternly watchful only of my own....Keep my eyes lifted to the highest so that I may be humbled; and seeing the failures of others, be forgiving, because I know how much there is of which I need to be forgiven.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL,
Let me not go carelessly this day within the reach of any evil I cannot resist , but if in the path of duty I must go where temptation is, give me strength to meet it without fear.
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN
And so, in my heart may I carry the knowledge that Your greatness is above me and around me, and that Your grace through the Christ is sufficient for all my needs. Amen.

MCC - Our Reason for Being!

We are here because we have known the loneliness and fear of living ourlives in pain and uncertainty. If we face reality honestly and deal with the feelings that have ruined our hopes, we can be born again as the persons God wants us to be. There is no way to fool ourselves, and we alone can cause ourselves to fail. When we plunge into ourselves through the eyes of God and of our sisters and brothers, we will grow and change. What we will be is hidden from us; but that we must break the walls that surround us is clear. This is a daily task, and calls for our total concern. So that we may live to the fullest, we will invest all that we are....and do it now! For we are not afraid anymore.

- J.Di M-K

Metropolitan Community Church of Worcester
2 Wellington Street, Worcester MA 01610 , (617) 753-8360
A non-denominational Christian Church with a special ministry to the Gay/Lesbian Community: worship, fellowship, sharing, growing, differing, discussing, agreeing to disagree, open, rapping, socializing, learning, teaching, inclusive, non-sexist, and above all, willing to learn.....

2 Wellington Street
Worcester, Ma. 01610

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MCC Ventura
P.O.Box A-0
Ventura CA 93002

good bye
auf wiedersehen
aloha · au revoir
shalom · adios
God
be with
you

181 Gallatin Street
Providence, R.I.
November 3, 1979

Dear Marge,

Hello! I was just thinking about you and have done so many times since you left. You are really missed by me and by many others.

"Mac" told me of your change in plans after you reached Italy. I felt for you but I have a sense the Lord is calling you to something more than you expected. But, severing relationships is a painful dying process. So, I've prayed for you.

Peggy Longhammer told me she talked to you about herself. She has come out to us living in the House here. She's contemplating telling the Provincial soon. Meanwhile she has been moving more and more among gay women. It has been a powerful experience for me personally being and sharing with Peggy as she moves through the formation process. It certainly cracked more open for me the whole understanding of celibacy. I would have run to you for direction myself if you were here. I think I'm growing.

with every good wish
and much love.

The other day "Mac" discovered she had a large lump on her breast. Today she is going through tests and on Tues. she's having a biopsy. Meanwhile, she is really going through

fear of what it may be. People around her make it worse sometimes.

Our Church scene here hasn't changed any. The Sister, Theresa Kane, who addressed the Pope in Washington, is the Administrator General of my community. She's a good woman, very low-keyed, but deeply committed to poverty and justice. Her mail after this happening has been a mixture of everything.

We're looking forward to meeting the new minister of MCC who ever it is. Dignity is celebrating its 6th Anniversary in a week.

Take care of yourself. God go with you! Thank you for all you taught me.

Peace & Love Mary Reilly

MCC Provinces

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